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2026

yearbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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04 Letter from Paul Dolan
06 Ownership
10 Club Officers
20 Front Office
26 2026 Schedule
28 Promo Schedule / Seating Diagram
30 José Ramírez is Committed to the Guardians
38 Ten-Year Anniversary of a Magical 2016 Season
46 Stephen Vogt Wins Back-To-Back AL Manager Of The Year Awards
52 Manager & Players
122 Coaches
126 Training Staff

LETTER FROM THE OWNER

Dear Guardians Fans,

As we embark on the 2026 season, I want to thank you for your incredible support of Guardians baseball. Your passion and loyalty, at Progressive Field and on the road, through every stretch of the schedule, mean a great deal to our organization. The connection you have built with Guardians baseball over the years is something we do not take for granted, and it is a big part of what makes Cleveland such a special place to play baseball.

Last season reminded us why Cleveland baseball means so much to this city. Our comeback to reclaim the American League Central title showed the resilience and belief that define both our team and our community. Under the steady leadership of Stephen Vogt, who earned his second consecutive Manager of the Year award, the Guardians proved what can happen through trust, teamwork and culture. That same spirit is reflected in José Ramírez's long-term commitment to Cleveland, a powerful statement of loyalty and confidence in what we are building together. As we turn to 2026, we do so with optimism in our young and talented roster and with faith in the values that guide us: doing things the right way, staying true to who we are and working each day toward our shared goal of bringing a World Series championship home to Cleveland.

Just as we pursue excellence on the field, we are equally focused on creating a compelling ballpark experience. The energy you bring to Progressive Field on a summer night, from the first pitch to the last out, helps turn every game into something bigger than just what happens between the lines. That atmosphere creates a true home field advantage and our players feel that support every time they take the field.

Whether you have been part of the Guardians family for decades or are experiencing your first season with us, know that you are at the heart of what we do. On behalf of our players, staff and the entire organization, thank you for being part of this continuing story. We look forward to sharing another remarkable season with you at the corner of Carnegie and Ontario.

Sincerely,

Paul Dolan
Chairman and CEO, Cleveland Guardians

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OWNERSHIP OF THE CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

PAUL J. DOLAN

OWNER / CHAIRMAN / CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Dolan family's ownership of the Cleveland Guardians franchise enters its 27th season in 2026, while Paul Dolan begins his 14th campaign as the primary control person after being formally approved by Major League Baseball on Jan. 10, 2013. Paul continues to serve as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Guardians, roles that he accepted prior to the 2011 season. He began as Vice President, General Counsel upon joining the organization in 2000 and later served as the club's President from 2004-10.

A fifth-generation Clevelander, Paul was born and raised in nearby Chardon, Ohio where he attended high school at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills. He graduated with a B.A. degree from St. Lawrence University in 1980 and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Notre Dame's Law School in 1983. Prior to joining the Guardians, Paul was a partner at Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan, a Chardon, Ohio-based law firm.

Dolan is involved in various business interests throughout Northeast Ohio and is engaged with many philanthropic and civic boards throughout the Northeast Ohio community. He is currently Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and serves as a board member for The Cleveland Clinic, Playhouse Square Foundation, United Way of Greater Cleveland and Cleveland State University. Paul has been the co-chairman for VeloSano Bike to Cure in each of the event's last 12 years (2014-25) and also participates as a Guardians team member. The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission honored the Dolan family with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award, which is annually presented to an individual or group that has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the advancement of sport in Cleveland. Paul and his wife, Karen, reside in Geauga County and have two adult sons.

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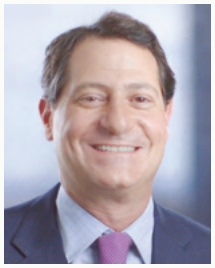

David Blitzer
Vice Chairman

David S. Blitzer enters his fifth season with the Cleveland Guardians after being announced as Vice Chairman and minority ownership partner on June 27, 2022.

A respected global sports and entertainment investor, Blitzer is Co-Founder and Co-Managing General Partner of Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment (HBSE) and has more than a decade of expertise owning and operating professional sports teams, including the Philadelphia 76ers (NBA), New Jersey Devils (NHL), Joe Gibbs Racing (NASCAR), Crystal Palace (EPL), Real Salt Lake (MLS) and numerous international soccer clubs. Additionally, Blitzer has numerous equity investments in emerging leagues that include Tech3 (MotoGP), Jupiter Links (TGL), SailGP Team Germany and LOVB Austin (Volleyball). Most recently Chairman of Blackstone's global Tactical Opportunities Group, David retired from Blackstone on 12/31/2025 after 34 years at the firm. David graduated magna cum laude from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. David currently serves on the Boards of Dream, a youth development servicing more than 2,200 inner city children, the Riverdale Country School, the Advisory Board of the Mount Sinai Surgical Department, the Board of Overseers at the Wharton School and the Board of Trustees at the University of Pennsylvania. David and his wife, Allison, are committed to giving back to the community, as they established the Blitzer Family Foundation to support organizations that positively impact community enrichment and youth development through education, athletics, health and wellness. David and Allison reside in New York City with their five children.

Senior Executives

Brian Barren
President, Business Operations

Brian Barren enters his 13th season with the Cleveland Guardians in 2026 and tenth as President of Business Operations. He joined the organization in January 2014 and served as Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing over his first three seasons. In his present capacity, Brian oversees all aspects of the club's business functions. Barren joined the Guardians following an accomplished, 24-year career with Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio where he developed a wide variety of skill sets and expertise in Customer Business Development and general management of multi-functional business teams. As a senior leader at P&G, Brian had team leadership responsibility on the company's Walmart and Kroger Teams, two of P&G's top customers in the world. Brian is a 1989 graduate of Princeton University, where he earned a degree in History that included his senior year thesis researching the integration of Major League Baseball. He played football for four years at Princeton as a classmate and teammate of Toronto Blue Jays President & CEO Mark Shapiro. Brian was also an Army ROTC scholarship student as an undergrad at Princeton, fulfilling his commitment to the U.S. Army as a tank commander upon graduation. Brian and his wife, Kris, reside in downtown Cleveland and have two sons, Billy and Brad. Brian was one of Dan and Catherine Barren's six children. His late father was a well-respected teacher and high school football coach for many years at Columbus Academy, where Brian graduated in 1985, and finished his coaching career as the inaugural Head Football Coach at Notre Dame Cathedral Latin (Hall of Fame Class of 2004). Brian serves as a board member for College Now Greater Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Chris Antonetti
President, Baseball Operations

Now in his 28th year with the Cleveland Guardians franchise, Chris Antonetti enters his 11th full season as President of Baseball Operations, a role he has held since October 6, 2015, and his 16th year overseeing the club's Baseball Operations, after spending five seasons as the club's Executive Vice President and General Manager from 2011-15. Antonetti has worked with General Manager Mike Chernoff and teammates across the organization to build a foundation for sustained success by seeking to maximize all avenues of player acquisition and development, while also cultivating an organizational culture that supports continual learning and growth. That foundation has helped establish Cleveland as one of the game's most consistent contenders over the last 13 seasons.

Chris guided a reshaping of Cleveland's Major League club prior to the 2013 campaign, which began with the hiring of two-time World Series champion Terry Francona as manager and continued with the transition to Stephen Vogt as skipper in 2024 (back-to-back A.L. Manager of the Year, 2024-25). In the eight-year span from 2013-20, Cleveland posted eight consecutive winning seasons and compiled the American League's best record by a six-win margin (.565, 673-519).

That stretch launched a broader 13-year run beginning with 2013 in which Cleveland has posted the American League's 2nd-best record (.550, 1101-900) – 3rd-best in the Majors overall – highlighted by sustained Postseason contention.

Over the last 13 seasons, Cleveland has captured six A.L. Central titles (2016-18, 2022, 2024, 2025) and secured eight MLB Postseason appearances. The organization advanced to the 2013 A.L. Wild Card Game, the 2016 World Series, the 2017 A.L. Division Series, the 2018 A.L. Division Series, the 2020 Wild Card Series, the 2022 A.L. Division Series, the 2024 A.L. Championship Series and the 2025 Wild Card Series. During this period, Cleveland has played

CLUB OFFICERS

a combined total of just 27 regular season games outside of Postseason contention, including only 8 games through 2020, underscoring the club's consistent presence in meaningful late-season races.

The 2025 season featured one of the most impressive Division Title runs in MLB history, with Cleveland overcoming an MLB record 15.5-game deficit to win the division (since 1969) or league (1900-1968). That comeback surpassed the previous high mark set by the 1914 Boston Braves, who erased a 15.0-game deficit to finish 1st in the National League. In recognition of organizational accomplishments, Antonetti was named 2016 Executive of the Year by Baseball America following the club's World Series run. He was also selected as 2017 Executive of the Year by Sporting News after Cleveland achieved its third 100-win campaign (102-60) in the now 124-year history of the franchise. Antonetti garnered Sporting News Executive of the Year honors again in 2022, as the youngest roster in MLB came within one win of advancing to the A.L. Championship Series.

Antonetti originally joined the Guardians organization prior to the 1999 season as an assistant in the Baseball Operations Department and was promoted to Director of Major League Operations in August 2001. Over a nine-year period from 2002-10, Chris assisted with significant rebuilding efforts as both Assistant GM (January 2002) and, later, Vice President of Baseball Operations (March 2007) that were rewarded when Cleveland led Major League Baseball in wins and advanced to the 2007 A.L. Championship Series.

Chris began his career in professional baseball in the summer of 1997 as an intern with the Montreal Expos in West Palm Beach, FL. He was later hired as Assistant Director of Player Development with the Expos in November 1997 and served in that position until joining the Cleveland staff. Antonetti graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University in 1996 with a degree in Business Administration and earned a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Sport Management the following year. At Georgetown, he was a student manager for the men's basketball team for one-and-a-half years under John Thompson, Jr. Chris currently serves on the MLB Club Executive Committee for The Players Alliance, which was formed in 2020. Chris and his wife, Sarah, live in Rocky River, Ohio with their daughters, Mya and Ella.

Mike Chernoff

General Manager

Mike Chernoff enters his 23rd season with the Cleveland Guardians organization in 2026 and his 11th since being named the 16th General Manager in team history on Oct. 6, 2015. He spent the previous five seasons as the club's Assistant General Manager after being elevated to the position in October 2010.

Chernoff was previously Cleveland's Director of Baseball Operations over four seasons from 2007-10 after spending the 2005-06 campaigns as the Assistant Director of Baseball Operations. His tenure with the organization started in June 2003 when he began an internship in Baseball Operations.

As General Manager, Mike works with President of Baseball Operations Chris Antonetti to lead all aspects of the club's baseball operations, including Major League operations, scouting and player acquisitions, player development and performance, research and development, and contract negotiations. Chernoff has helped lead a variety of strategic moves and organizational development initiatives that have impacted the Guardians current Major League team and organizational culture, including the hiring processes of both Terry Francona and Stephen Vogt, as well as a substantial volume of player acquisitions, multi-year contract negotiations, and scouting and development initiatives.

Mike played four years of varsity baseball as a middle infielder at Princeton University and served as captain of the team as a senior. He earned a degree in Economics with a certificate in finance from the Ivy League institution in June 2003.

Mike and his wife, Sarah, reside in Beachwood, Ohio with their sons, Brody and Owen, and daughters, Arielle and Saige. His father, Mark, retired in 2022 as Vice President of Programming for WFAN in New York City following an illustrious radio career that spanned four decades.

Matt Forman

Executive Vice President & Assistant GM

Matt Forman enters his 14th season with Cleveland in 2026 and tenth since being named Assistant General Manager in 2016. Prior to the 2022 campaign, his title was expanded to include "Executive Vice President," as Forman's current role supports Chris Antonetti and Mike Chernoff with the co-management of all aspects of Baseball Operations. Among other responsibilities, Forman helps to lead the organization's efforts at the Major League level along with scouting and player acquisitions, player development and performance, and R&D and information systems.

Prior to his promotion to EVP, Forman led the organization's scouting departments (Amateur, Professional & International) and player acquisition processes. Forman also previously held several leadership roles within the club's Baseball Operations department.

Forman's tenure with the Guardians began in 2013 after graduating from Northwestern University in 2011. Matt resides in Rocky River, Ohio with his wife, JoHanna, their son, Chase, and daughters, Olivia and Caroline.

CLUB OFFICERS

Assistant General Managers

Sky Andrecheck
Assistant General Manager

Sky Andrecheck enters his 17th season with the Guardians organization and seventh since being named Assistant General Manager prior to the 2020 season. He was elevated to Vice President of Baseball Research and Development in 2019 after serving the previous three seasons (2016-18) as the club's Senior Director of Research and Development. Andrecheck's tenure with Cleveland began in May 2010 when he was hired as a Baseball Analyst to enhance the club's quantitative efforts in a wide variety of areas.

In his role, Sky assumes responsibility for the club's analytical systems across Baseball Operations, leading the club's analysts and data scientists, while bringing advanced quantitative and analytical research to the organization. He continues to serve as a resource for personnel and strategy decisions throughout Baseball Operations, including both Pro and Amateur Scouting, Player Development and Major League Advance Scouting.

A Chicago-area native, Andrecheck holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Statistics from the University of Illinois. Before joining the Guardians, he worked as a statistician at Mathematica Policy Research in Washington, D.C. Sky also wrote for several online baseball outlets, including Baseball Analysts and SI.com. He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Shaker Heights, Ohio with their daughter, Adeline.

Eric Binder
Assistant General Manager

Eric Binder begins his 14th season with the Guardians organization and fifth since being named Assistant General Manager. Binder started his tenure with Cleveland in 2013 as the Advance Scouting Intern, progressing into a full-time role in Player Development the following year. In 2017, Binder transitioned into Baseball Operations serving as the director of the department the next two seasons.

As Assistant GM, Eric's responsibilities expand across Baseball Operations in support of Cleveland's Major League staff, Player Development staff and Scouting departments. His leadership in implementation of process and analysis focuses day-to-day with the Major League coaching staff and Performance areas, while additionally leading the development and implementation of pitching philosophies and programs throughout the organization.

Eric joined the Guardians after a two-year Minor League pitching career from 2012-13, most notably with the St. Louis Cardinals organization. He grew up in Burr Ridge, IL and attended Northwestern University, later graduating from Trinity University in 2010 with a degree in Economics. He resides in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

James Harris
Assistant General Manager

James Harris begins his tenth season with the Cleveland Guardians and fifth as Assistant General Manager after spending the previous two years as Vice President of Player Development. Harris joined the organization as Director of Player Development in 2016.

In his current role, James assists in all facets of Baseball Operations, including player and staff procurement and development, along with player personnel decisions at the Major and Minor League levels.

Harris provides macro-level leadership of the Player Development system, including club complexes in both Arizona and the Dominican Republic, along with broad oversight of Major and Minor League Performance areas in collaboration with Strength & Conditioning and Nutrition.

Prior to joining the Guardians, James was a Special Assistant to Baseball Operations with the Pittsburgh Pirates and spent time as Chief of Staff for the Philadelphia Eagles and the University of Oregon. During his 29-year career in sports, he has also spent time with the University of Nebraska, Arizona State University, San Francisco 49ers and Athletes' Performance (EXOS).

James graduated from the University of Nebraska in 2000 with a degree in Human Resources and Family Sciences, has a master's degree in Nutrition and Exercise Science from Nebraska, is a Registered Dietitian (RD) and studied Leadership at the University of Oregon.

A Los Angeles area native, James and his wife, Kimberly, have two daughters, Kamryn and Keliah.

Senior Vice Presidents, Baseball Operations

Alex Eckelman
Senior Vice President, Hitting

Alex Eckelman begins his 16th season with the Cleveland Guardians and fifth in his present capacity of leadership, as he was recently elevated to Senior Vice President of Hitting after spending 2022-24 as VP of Hitting; he also served as Director of Hitting Development during the 2020-21 campaigns. Eckelman originally joined the organization in 2010 as an Advance Scouting Intern, transitioning into the roles of Asst. Director, Pro Scouting in 2011 and Advance Scouting Coordinator after that, handling analysis and Major League advance reports on upcoming opponents. Alex was an Asst. Director of Player Development from 2016-19.

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In his role, Alex guides leadership of the club's Hitting Development staff and the design and creation of programs, policies and curriculums implemented throughout Cleveland's system, while managing the information and resources to support. He also oversees the hitting aspects of player plan origination for position players in collaboration with coaches, coordinators and other front office staff members.

Alex played professional baseball for nine years (1997-2005) in the Houston and St. Louis organizations, including parts of three seasons at Triple-A. Following his playing career, he coached in the Astros system in 2007. Alex graduated from The Ohio State University, where he played varsity baseball (1994-97) and was elected to the Varsity "O" Hall of Fame in 2006 in a class that included Eddie George. He concluded his Minor League career with a .274 (706-2578) avg. in 804 games.

Alex resides in Broadview Heights, Ohio with his wife, Erin, and together they have four children, Mason, Samantha, Julian and Maggie.

Paul Gillispie

Senior Vice President, Scouting

Paul Gillispie begins his 20th season with the Guardians organization and fourth since being elevated to Senior Vice President of Scouting. He spent the previous three seasons (2019-2022) as Vice President of International Scouting. In his current role, Gillispie oversees all aspects of the club's domestic and international scouting operations, while leading the evaluation, information-gathering and process implementation efforts.

Gillispie spent three years (2017-2019) as the club's Director of International Scouting, after serving as Director of Pro Scouting (2015-2016) and Assistant Director of Scouting (2009-2014). Paul's tenure with the Guardians started in November 2006 when he began an internship in Baseball Operations, followed by covering Georgia, South Carolina and Northern Florida as an Area Scout for the club.

Paul graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in American Politics. He played for the Cavaliers baseball team and was team captain for the 2003-04 season. He is a member of the Buck O'Neil Professional Scouts and Coaches Association. Originally from Danville, Virginia, Paul resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

Victor Wang

Senior Vice President, Player Acquisitions

Victor Wang enters his 18th season with the Guardians and fifth since being named Senior Vice President of Player Acquisitions. He was elevated to VP of Player Acquisitions prior to the 2020 campaign. In his current role, Victor provides decision frameworks and processes as a shared service for the organization, while continuing to lead acquisition efforts across scouting avenues.

Victor previously served in Pro Scouting roles as Assistant Director (2013-16) and as Director (2017-19). He joined the organization in a full-time capacity in June 2012 as a Baseball Operations Assistant after spending the previous three summers as a Baseball Operations & Analytics Intern. Prior to coming to Cleveland, Victor wrote for the Hardball Times.

Victor grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota, and later graduated from Northwestern University in June 2012 with a BA in Economics. He currently resides in downtown Cleveland.

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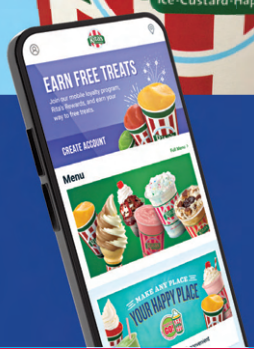

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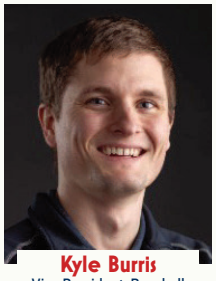

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Vice President, Baseball Research & Development

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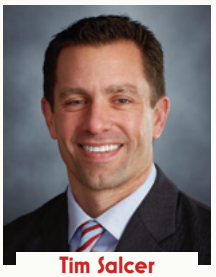

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Chris Antonetti: President, Baseball Operations
Brian Barren: President, Business Operations
Mike Chernoff: General Manager
Matt Forman: Executive Vice President & Assistant General Manager
Sky Andrecheck: Assistant General Manager
Eric Binder: Assistant General Manager
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Ballpark Services

Jonathan Wilham: Senior Director, Security Services
Nick Ferraro: Director, Facility Services
Katina Terry Ujczo: Director, Event Services
Jordan Weiss: Director, Construction & Project Management
Brandon Koehnke: Senior Director, Groundskeeping
Travis Barnhill: Assistant Groundskeeper I
John Dileo: Assistant Groundskeeper II
Rosalie Morrison: Assistant Director, Facility Services
Steve Walters: Senior Manager, Ballpark Services
Anna Powell: Senior Manager, Event Services
Mike Richardson: Manager, Event Security
Ray Caraballo: Manager, Security Services
Richie Olascoaga-Suarez: Manager, Goodyear Facility Security
Dom Mittiga: Manager, Facility Services
Alex Dailey: Coordinator, Ballpark Services
Danny Castenir: Coordinator, Event Services
Rob Banaga: Maintenance/Custodial
Gregory Darden: Maintenance/Custodial
Mike Hoagland: Maintenance/Custodial
Mohamed Lamsettef: Maintenance/Custodial
Rose Pendleton: Maintenance/Custodial
Ed Perez: Maintenance/Custodial
James Coyne: Team Lead, Facility Security
Tori Reynolds: Supervisor, Facility Security
Celi Ayala: Team Lead, Facility Security
Matt Mensurati: Team Lead, Facility Security
Mark Moore: Supervisor, Facility Security
Tom Simmons: Supervisor, Facility Security
Matt Burt: Supervisor, Facility Security
Zeke Moorman: Maintenance/Custodial
Brian Coffen: Maintenance/Custodial
Tom Hanzak: Maintenance/Custodial
Antonio Santiago: Maintenance/Custodial

Baseball Operations

Wendy Hoppel: Director, Baseball Administration
Keith Woolner: Principal Data Scientist, Baseball Analytics
Scott Barnsby: Director, Amateur Scouting
Andrew Bahnert: Director, Physical Development
Nate Freiman: Director, Hitting Development
Stephen Osterer: Director, Pitching Development
Richard Conway: Director, International Scouting
Chris Gale: Director, Player Evaluations
Sam Giller: Director, Baseball Operations: Technology
Clint Longnecker: Director, Player Acquisitions
Alex DeMoya: Director, Latin Player Personnel
Jared Jones: Director, Team Travel and Logistics
Anna Bolton: Assistant Director, Player Development - Education
Jennifer Wolf: Assistant Director, Player Development - Life Skills
Ilana Mishkin: Assistant Director, Player Development
Ismael Jansen: Manager, International Operations
Paul Moviel: Manager, Protective Services
Matt Czechanski: Assistant, Amateur Scouting
Cole Futterman: Assistant Director, Baseball Operations - Development
Zach Morton: Analyst, Baseball Operations
Kyle Burris: Director, Research & Development
Max Marchi: Consultant, Baseball Research & Development
James Venzor: Data Scientist, Baseball Research & Development
Marlene Lehky: Executive Administrative Assistant
Nilda Taffanelli: Administrative Assistant, Player Development
Cristina Almonte: Administrative Assistant, Dominican Republic
Dr. Charles Maher: Senior Advisor to the President and GM, Sport and Performance Psychology
Brian Miles: Performance Coach
Martin Rasumoff: Performance Coach
JuanPa Favero: Performance Coach
Andie McGregor: Performance Coach
Augustin Rivero: Major League Spanish Interpreter
Steve Lubratich: Special Assistant to the President of Baseball Operations/GM

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FRONT OFFICE

Dave Malpass: Special Assistant to the President of Baseball Operations/GM
Tom Wiedenbauer: Special Assistant to the President of Baseball Operations/GM
Neal Huntington: Special Assistant to the President of Baseball Operations/GM
Dr. Lindsay Shaw: Director of Sport Psychology
Jono Freeston: Director of Sport Science
Adam Ott: Data Scientist, Baseball Research & Development
Steven Reich: Data Scientist, Baseball Research & Development
Chris Mosch: Assistant Director, International Scouting
Ethan Purser: Director, Amateur Scouting
Pete Loizzo: Assistant Director, Amateur Scouting
Anthony DElia: Assistant Director, Baseball Operations: Tech
Jeremy Harris: Assistant Director, Medical Services
Bobby Kinne: Director, Baseball Operations: Development
Will Huntington: Assistant Director, Baseball Operations - Development
Ben Johnson: Assistant Director, Pitching Development
Alyssa Nakken: Assistant Director, Player Development
Emma Legault-Laroche: Analyst, Baseball Operations
Riley Feltner: Analyst, Baseball Operations
Matt Mulkey: Analyst, Baseball Operations
Moira Pryhoda: Biomechanics Analyst
Xander Schwartz: Associate Data Scientist
Cameron Grove: Consultant, Research & Development
Elena Velez: Coordinator, Player Engagement & Community Impact Communications
Yanhna Meregildo: Lead Teacher, Dominican Republic

Baseball Systems Development

Matt Tagliaferri: Principal Software Engineer
Corey Brunstetter: Senior Software Engineer
Jordan Wright: Software Engineer
Katie Shea: Software Engineer
Victoria Young: Software Engineer
Caden Rice: Associate Software Engineer
Steven Yee: Associate Software Engineer
Max Clowdus: Associate Software Engineer
Michael Halverson: Data Engineer
Reid Sheppard: Senior Director, Software Engineering
Henry Qin: Director, Platform Engineering
Matt Peters: Staff Data Engineer
Dave Fagan: Staff Software Engineer
Don Crislip: Staff Software Engineer
Brandyn Brosemer: Senior Platform Engineer

Communications

Bart Swain: Director, Baseball Information & Player Relations
Court Berry-Tripp: Director, Broadcasting
Anne Keegan Osborne: Director, Internal Communications
Austin Controulis: Director, Baseball and Business Communications
Jeremy Feador: Manager, Team Historian & Alumni Relations
Emma Moloney: Coordinator, Communications & Digital Media
Sam Stack: Coordinator, Communications & Baseball Information
Brian Havrilla: Content Creation Specialist
Jala Norman: Minor League Content Creation Specialist
Tom Hamilton: Play-by-Play Announcer
Jim Rosenhaus: Play-by-Play Announcer

Community Impact

Penny Forster: Senior Director, Community Impact
Raphael Collins: Director, Community Impact
Terrence Echols: Coordinator, Community Impact

Consumer Research & Insights

Dave Zuidema: Director, Consumer Research & Insights
Nicole Studzenski: Senior Analyst, Consumer Research & Insights
Lindsey Oberg: Analyst, Consumer Research & Insights

Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality

Kevin Murphy: Senior Director, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Wincy Wong: Director, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Julie Weaver: Assistant Director, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality Account Management
Kristie Prendergast: Assistant Director, Partnership & Premium Activation
Jon Janoviak: Senior Manager, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Patrick DiBiasio: Account Manager, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Brynn Morgan: Senior Account Executive, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Michelle Arendas: Senior Account Executive, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Charlie Clegg: Account Executive, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Zach Zucker: Account Executive, New Business Development
Tori DeLuca: Account Executive, Corporate Partnerships & Premium Hospitality
Ryan Hovanec: Manager, Partnership & Media Activation
Rachael Montanari: Manager, Partnership & Premium Activation
Adam Bencko: Manager, Partnership Insights & Development
Graham Johnston: Senior Representative, Partnership Activation
Kimberly Gordon: Senior Representative, Partnership Activation
Wil Intihar: Senior Representative, Partnership Activation
Nolan Woolley: Senior Representative, Partnership Activation
Kyler Blasing: Representative, Partnership Activation
Avery Diedrick: Representative, Premium Activation
Hallie Paus: Representative, Premium Activation
Kennedy Kern: Account Specialist: Corporate Partnerships

Digital Experience

Christopher Hart: Director, Digital Experience
Nikki Block: Manager, Digital Experience Programs
Michaela Dornack: Coordinator, IPTV

Finance

Mary Forkapa: Assistant Director, Payroll & Payables Accounting
Fredy Feghali: Assistant Director, Finance
Sue Yates: Manager, Accounting
Sam Reed: Manager, Revenue Accounting

FRONT OFFICE

Kim Haist: Senior Accountant
Gregory Hubay: Senior Accountant, Payroll
Amy Richards: Senior Accountant
Nicole Roth: Senior Accountant
Francine Sommers: Coordinator, Risk & Travel Management
Regina Simmons: Payroll Administrator
Donna Stasiowski: Administrator, Workers Compensation
Caden Morello: Senior Analyst, Finance
Tyler Goebel: Analyst, Finance
Tanner Gunter: Accounts Payable Specialist

Goodyear Operations

Amiro Santana: Goodyear Facility Manager
Mason Wilbanks: Assistant Manager, Goodyear Clubhouse
Madeline Craft: Assistant Manager, Goodyear Complex
Fletcher Wilkes: Manager, Home Clubhouse

People Operations

Nate Daymut: Director, Organizational Development
Colleen Lynch: Director, Human Resources
Andrea Jirousek: Manager, Benefits & Wellness Programs
Allison Kwan: Manager, Engagement & Belonging
Kyle Brighton: Senior Coordinator, Talent Acquisition
Bree Brown: Manager, Culture & Experience
Eric DiLaura: Manager, Performance & Coaching
Kelci Williams-Amponsah: HR Business Partner, Talent Acquisition
Danielle Dubin: Coordinator, Talent Acquisition
Daniel Rittgers: Coordinator, Office Services
Julia Broghammer: Human Resources Assistant

Information Systems

Plamen Kouzov: Director, Business Systems
Kevin Dean: Director, Technical Services
Michael Maistros: Manager, Network Operations
Ryan Millard: Senior Network Engineer
Jeff Coyle: Network Support Analyst
Nick Korosi: Manager, Cloud Infrastructure
Allen Selker: Manager, Technical Services
Som Onyemelukwe: Cloud Engineer, Information Systems
Joan Fortney: Full Stack Developer, Business Systems
David Rischar: Senior Network Engineer
Marty Armstrong: Network Engineer
Michael Ramirez: Manager, Audio/Visual Engineering
Ian Roy: Dev Ops Engineer, Business Systems
Dan Eschman: Data Architect
Anna Matthews: End User Support Specialist
Dyle Bitner: End User Support Specialist
Louis Garcia: Service Desk Engineer
Angelo Ciancibello: End User Support Specialist
Jeff Rakar: End User Support Specialist
Mathew Smith: Service Desk Engineer, End User Support
Kyle Weikart: AV Facility Engineer
Nikke Hall: AV Events Engineer
Lauren Juliano-Schmid: Software Developer
Brianna Kuzdas: Cybersecurity Engineer
Matt Storc: Database Administrator/Data Engineer
Zach Dawson: Data Engineer

Live Experience

Kelly Dredge: Director, Live Experience
Nick Gambone: Assistant Director, Creative Production
Mike Donelan: Manager, Scoreboard Operations & 3D Motion Design
Tracy Morton: Manager, Live Experience
Kaylee Koller: Manager, Video Production
Nicole Lucas: Manager, Content Strategy
Dan Kilday: Mascot Coordinator
Shawn Russell: Gameday Director & Content Producer
Ty Scott: Animator/Designer, Digital Content
Murphy Patterson: Coordinator, Live Experience
Eric Gebhardt: Entertainment Team Coordinator, Live Experience
Michaela Belkin: Copywriter

Marketing

Bailey Wells: Director, Marketing
Mike Zawistowski: Assistant Director, Marketing Creative
Monique Ozanne: Assistant Director, Channel
Anne Madzelan: Senior Manager, Advertising & Promotions
Olivia Lavelle: Manager, Growth Marketing
Steve Asbury: Manager, Brand Production
Ashley Truchan: Coordinator, Marketing
Claire Pugel: Senior Production Coordinator, Marketing
Annette James: Video Producer
Ben Peskar: Graphic Designer
Remington King: Graphic Designer, CPPH

Merchandising

Kristen Jufko: Senior Director, Retail & Merchandise Operations
Caitlyn Burkart: Director of Events
Robert Avila: Assistant Director, Merchandise Operations
Annamarie Geraci: Assistant Director, Retail Operations
Scott Lilly: Manager, Merchandise Operations
Katie Larsen: Senior Buyer, Merchandise Operations
Meghan Miles: Manager, Retail Operations
Emma Hall: Manager, Retail Operations
Kaylee Thomas: Buyer, Merchandise Operations
Bette Prendergast: Coordinator, Purchasing
Jake Nagy: Assistant Manager, Retail Operations
Damian Sauer: Assistant Manager, Retail Operations

Business Strategy & Analytics

Patrick Fischetti: Senior Director, Business Analytics
Brady Brown: Director, Business Strategy
Urs Fischer: Assistant Director, Business Intelligence
Tye Brown: Manager, Business Strategy
McKenna Linnen: Senior Analyst, Business Intelligence
Ananya Chowla: Senior Analyst, Business Strategy
Kenny Miller: Senior Analyst, Data Science
Johnny Chen: Analyst, Data Science
George Harlley: Analyst, Business Strategy
Chris Hu: Analyst, Business Strategy
Ian Lindstrom: Analyst, Business Intelligence
Hunter Kuchenbaur: Analyst, Business Intelligence

FRONT OFFICE

Ticket Sales & Service

Angel Jefferson: Senior Director, Service
Jeff Wallace: Director, Ticket Sales
Courtney Job: Director, Service
Jeff Stocker: Assistant Director, Ticket Sales
John Bowers: Manager, Ticket Partnerships
Hank Winters: Manager, Ticket Sales
Ashley Madison: Manager, Ticket Sales
Brent Cartwright: Manager, Service
Alex Gibbons: Manager, Service
Sam Dreaden: Senior Account Executive, Ticket Sales
Logan Ward: Account Executive, Group Sales
Ben Brooks: Senior Account Executive, Groups
TJ Withers: Account Executive, Ticket Sales
Eli Ehrbar: Account Executive, Season Tickets
Jack Rinderle: Coordinator, Service
Ross Genchi: Coordinator, Service
Nolan Hopkins: Coordinator, Service
Sydney Zengler: Coordinator, Events & Experiences
Bobby Paoloni: Coordinator, Group Service
Javona Brown: Service Representative, Groups
Gracie Caine: Service Representative, Events & Experiences
Corey Wolfgang: Client Service Specialist
Steve Spidell: Client Service Specialist
Kara Evin: Client Service Specialist
Summer Jordan: Client Service Specialist
Catherine Kish: Group Service Specialist
Caleigh Duesing: Account Specialist, Season Service

Ticket Services

Matt Coppo: Director, Ticket Operations
Eric Fronczek: Senior Manager, Ticket Office
Becky Emery: Manager, Ticket Services
Robby Becker: Manager, Ticket Operations
Cathy Pesta: Ticket Office Processor
Rob Anton: Coordinator, Ticket Operations

Athletic Training and Strength & Conditioning

Jeff Desjardins: Head Athletic Trainer
Chad Wolfe: Assistant Athletic Trainer
Joe Kessler: Head Strength & Conditioning Coach
Hasani Torres: Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach
Bobby Ruiz: Assistant Athletic Trainer
Nelson Perez: Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach
Karina Gonzalez: Athletic Trainer
Teddy Blackwell: Special Assistant/Medical Services
Rances Palacio: Physiotherapist, Dominican Republic

Clubhouse

Tony Amato: Home Clubhouse/Equipment Manager
Brandon Biller: Assistant Home Clubhouse/Equipment Manager
Willie Jenks: Visiting Clubhouse Manager
Frank Velotta: Assistant Director, Video Operations
Francisco Flores: Minor League Video Coordinator
Elliot Escalier: ML Clubhouse Chef de Partie

Medical Staff

Mark Schickendantz, M.D.: Head Team Physician
Dr. Charles Maher: Director, Employee Assistance Program
Ronald Golovan, M.D.: Head Team Internist and Assistant Director, Employee Assistance Program
Jason Genin, D.O.: Team Physician
K.V. Gopal, M.D.: Team Physician
Tom Graham, M.D.: Team Physician
Kim Stearns, M.D.: Team Physician
Thomas Waters, M.D.: Team Physician
Jim Williams, M.D.: Team Physician

Medical Staff Consultants

Beth Mignano, LMT, PA-C: Soft Tissue/Manual Therapist
Stephen D. Cooke, D.D.S.: Dentist
Paul Hazen, M.D.: Dermatologist
Ray Pongonis, M.D.: Team Physician *(AAA Columbus)*
Grant Jones, M.D.: Team Physician *(AAA Columbus)*
Mike Jonesco, M.D.: Team Physician *(AAA Columbus)*
Nilesh Shah, M.D.: Team Physician *(AA Akron)*
Ian Smithson, M.D.: Team Physician *(A Lynchburg)*
Velyn Wu, M.D.: Team Physician *(A Lynchburg)*
Michael Ciletti, M.D.: Team Physician (*A Mahoning Valley)*
Rick Parker, M.D.: Team Physician
Salvatore Fragiamore, M.D.: Consulting Physicians
Jamie Starkey: Integrative Medicine
Don Franklin, D.C.: Chiropractor

Delaware North Sportservice

Tylor Mettler: General Manager, Delaware North
Thomas Geringer: Assistant General Manager
Celeste Williams: Human Resource Manager
Jacob Horvath: Human Resource Generalist
Dana Beitler: Executive Assistant
Mark Garramone: Controller
Scott Barlage: Accounting Manager
Jacob Carrick: Accounting
Scott Sopata: Warehouse Manager
Devon Jackson: Warehouse Assistant Manager
Mike Seay: Concessions Manager
Aaron Green: Concessions Assistant Manager
Taylor Rouheim: Concessions Assistant Manager
Tina Jarzemba: Purchasing Coordinator
Kenny Mount: Non-Profit Organization Coordinator
Courtney Wilson: IT Manager
Chris Miller: Food and Beverage Manager
Katie Koehl: Kaulig Club Manager
Sansophia Blackwood: DDM Club Manager
Megan Turek: Suites Manager
Karen Onyx: Hosted Events & Catering
Kyle Feyedelem: Terrace Club Manager
Vishu Nath: Executive Chef
Ryan Cannon: Concessions & Exec Sous Chef
Bill Conn: Catering/Picnics/VIP Sous Chef
Latisha Griffith: DDM & PDR & Kaulig Sous Chef
Santana Howard: Culinary Admin

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2026 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26 10:10PM SEA	27 9:45PM SEA	28 9:40PM SEA
29 7:20PM SEA	30 10:10PM LAD	31 10:10PM LAD	1 8:20PM LAD	2	3 4:10PM CHC	4 7:15PM CHC
5 1:40PM CHC	6 6:10PM KC	7 6:10PM KC	8 1:10PM KC	9	10 7:15PM ATL	11 7:15PM ATL
12 7:20PM ATL	13 7:45PM STL	14 7:45PM STL	15 1:15PM STL	16 6:10PM BAL	17 6:10PM BAL	18 6:10PM BAL
19 1:40PM BAL	20 6:10PM HOU	21 6:10PM HOU	22 1:10PM HOU	23	24 7:07PM TOR	25 3:07PM TOR
26 1:37PM TOR	27 6:10PM TB	28 6:10PM TB	29 1:10PM TB	30		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 9:40PM ATH	2 4:05PM ATH
3 4:05PM ATH	4 7:40PM KC	5 7:40pm KC	6 7:40pm KC	7 2:10pm KC	8 7:10PM MIN	9 6:10PM MIN
10 1:40PM MIN	11 6:10PM LAA	12 6:10PM LAA	13 1:10PM LAA	14	15 7:10PM CIN	16 6:10PM CIN
17 1:40PM CIN	18 6:40PM DET	19 6:40PM DET	20 6:40PM DET	21 1:10PM DET	22 6:40PM PHI	23 4:05PM PHI
24 1:35PM PHI	25 6:10PM WSH	26 6:10PM WSH	27 1:10PM WSH	28	29 7:10PM BOS	30 4:10PM BOS
31 1:40PM BOS						

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 7:05PM NYY	3 7:05PM NYY	4 1:35PM NYY	5 8:15PM TEX	6 7:35PM TEX
7 2:35PM TEX	8 6:40PM NYY	9 6:40PM NYY	10 1:10PM NYY	11	12 7:10PM DET	13 4:10PM DET
14 1:40PM DET	15	16 7:40PM MIL	17 7:40PM MIL	18 2:10PM MIL	19 8:10PM HOU	20 7:15PM HOU
21 2:10PM HOU	22 7:40PM CWS	23 7:40PM CWS	24 2:10PM CWS	25	26 7:10PM SEA	27 7:10PM SEA
28 1:40PM SEA	29 7:10PM TEX	30 6:40PM TEX				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 1:10PM TEX	2 6:40PM CWS	3 7:10PM CWS	4 7:10PM CWS
5 2:00PM CWS	6	7 7:40PM MIN	8 7:40PM MIN	9 1:40PM MIN	10 7:10PM MIA	11 4:10PM MIA
12 1:40PM MIA	13	14 ASG	15	16	17 7:10PM PIT	18 4:10PM PIT
19 1:40PM PIT	20 6:40PM MIN	21 6:40PM MIN	22 6:40PM MIN	23 1:10PM MIN	24 7:10PM TB	25 6:10PM TB
26 12:15pm TB	27 7:10PM CIN	28 7:10PM CIN	29 7:10PM CIN	30	31 7:10PM AZ	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 7:15PM AZ
2 1:40PM AZ	3	4 6:40PM NYM	5 6:40PM NYM	6 1:10PM NYM	7 7:40PM CWS	8 7:10PM CWS
9 2:10PM CWS	10	11 6:40PM DET	12 6:40PM DET	13 1:10PM DET	14 7:10PM SD	15 7:10PM SD
16 1:40PM SD	17	18 6:40PM SF	19 6:40PM SF	20 1:10PM SF	21 8:40PM COL	22 8:10PM COL
23 3:10PM COL	24 9:38PM LAA	25 9:38PM LAA	26 4:07PM LAA	27	28 7:10PM KC	29 4:10PM KC
30 1:40PM KC	31					

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:40PM TOR	2 6:40PM TOR	3 1:10PM TOR	4 7:10PM DET	5 7:15PM DET
6 1:40PM DET	7 1:35PM BAL	8 6:35PM BAL	9 6:35PM BAL	10	11 8:10PM MIN	12 4:10PM MIN
13 2:10PM MIN	14 6:40PM CWS	15 6:40PM CWS	16 1:10PM CWS	17	18 7:10PM ATH	19 6:10PM ATH
20 1:40PM ATH	21	22 6:45PM BOS	23 7:10PM BOS	24 6:45PM BOS	25 7:40PM KC	26 7:10PM KC
27 3:10PM KC	28	29	30			

HOME AWAY

All Game Dates and Times are Subject to Change
Schedule Tentative as of February 2026

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2026 Promotional Schedule

APR 3 Opening Day
Magnet Schedule + Car Magnet ❍ PROGRESSIVE

APR 27 Bark in the Park MILK-BONE PUP PERK!

MAY 9 Kyle Manzardo "The Manzo-lorian" Bobblehead Giveaway ◆ SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.
Star Wars™ Night

MAY 12 Asian-American Pacific Islander Celebration

MAY 15 Free Shirt Friday ■ PHANTOM FIREWORKS
Phantom Fireworks CENTURY
$2 Pregame in the District Lite
2016 Team Celebration

MAY 16 Rajai Davis 2016 Game 7 Bobblehead Giveaway ◆ drug mart
$2 Pregame in the District Lite
Armed Forces Night VETERANS

MAY 17 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

MAY 25 City Connect Plush Blanket Giveaway ◆

MAY 26 Bark in the Park MILK-BONE PUP PERK!

MAY 29 Phantom Fireworks DollarBank
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

MAY 30 Austin Hedges Jersey Giveaway ◆
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

MAY 31 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

JUN 8 Pride Celebration

JUN 12 Free Shirt Friday ■
Phantom Fireworks LECOM
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

JUN 13 Gavin Williams Bobblehead Giveaway ◆ Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

JUN 14 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

JUN 26 Phantom Fireworks
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Coors Light

JUN 27 Tanner Bibee City Connect Jersey Giveaway ◆
$2 Pregame in the District Coors Light

JUN 28 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

JUN 29 Bark in the Park MILK-BONE PUP PERK!

JUL 3 Free Shirt Friday ■ PHANTOM FIREWORKS
Phantom Fireworks Wayside
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

JUL 4 Patriotic Cap Giveaway ◆
Phantom Fireworks
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

JUL 5 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's
Larry Doby Day & Black Excellence Celebration

JUL 17 Phantom Fireworks
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Coors Light

JUL 18 José Ramírez Camp Shirt Giveaway ◆ DollarBank
$2 Pregame in the District Coors Light
Margaritaville™ Day

JUL 19 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

JUL 20 Christmas in July

JUL 21 Disability Pride Celebration

JUL 31 Phantom Fireworks
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

AUG 1 Cade Smith Bobblehead Giveaway ◆ PEPSI
Phantom Fireworks HONDA
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

AUG 2 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's
Slider's Birthday

AUG 5 Tumbler Giveaway ◆

AUG 14 Rock 'n' Blast echo
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

AUG 15 Rock 'n' Blast echo
City Connect Sling Bag Giveaway ◆
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

AUG 16 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

AUG 28 Free Shirt Friday ■
Phantom Fireworks
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

AUG 29 Bob Feller 1936 Jersey Giveaway ◆ FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY
$2 Pregame in the District Lite

AUG 30 Kids Fun Day
Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

SEP 5 Jersey Hoodie Giveaway ◆ Window Nails

SEP 14 Bark in the Park MILK-BONE PUP PERK!

SEP 15 Noche Latina

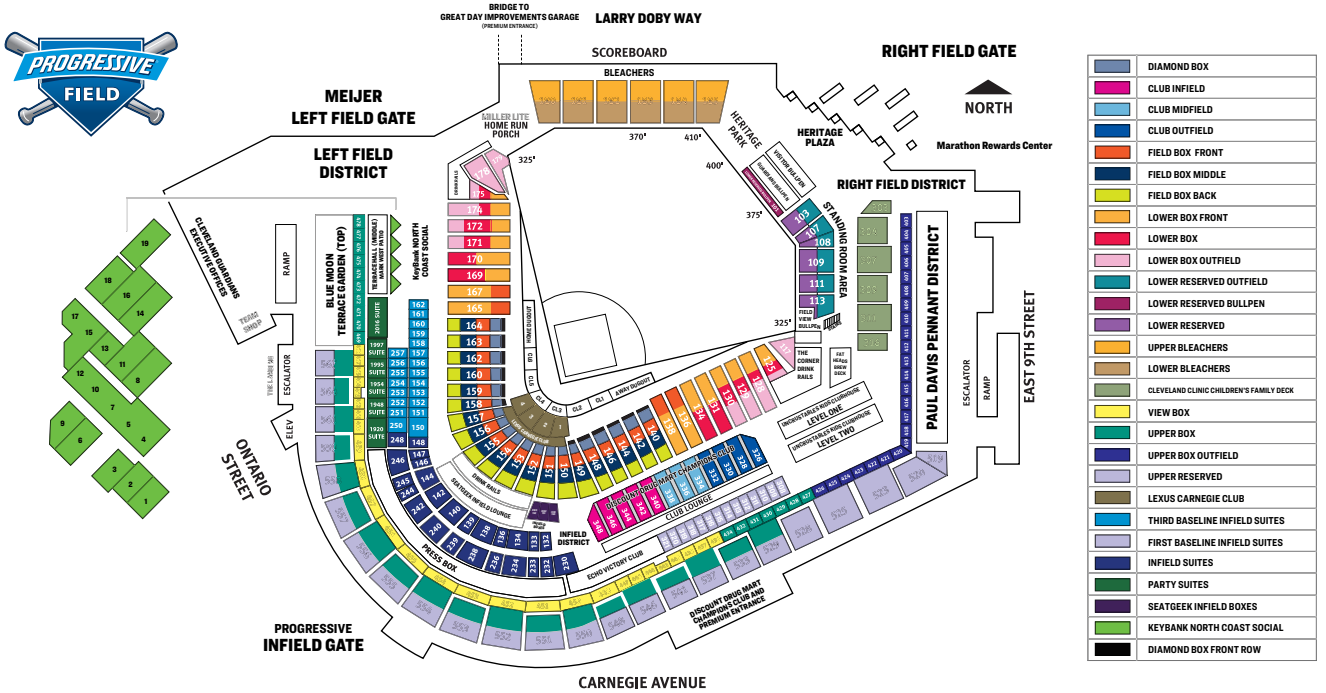
SEP 19 125th Anniversary Pennant Giveaway ◆ 7TV
Phantom Fireworks
Dollar Dog Night Sugardale
$2 Pregame in the District
Fan Appreciation Night Coors Light

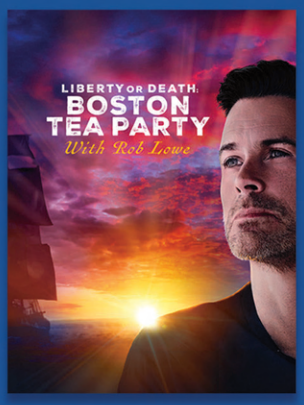
SEP 20 Kids Run the Bases Cleveland Clinic Children's

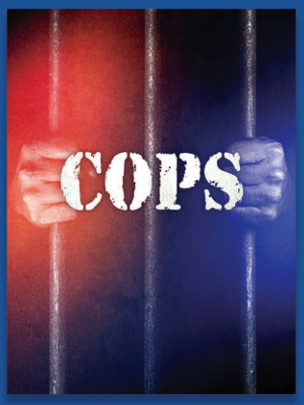
❍ All Fans ■ 10k Fans ◆ 15k Fans

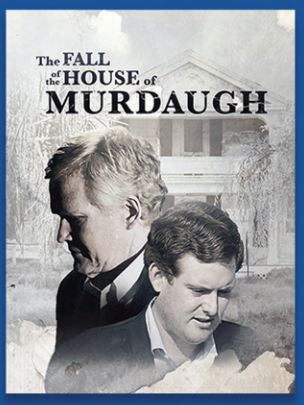
Promotional Calendar Subject to Change.

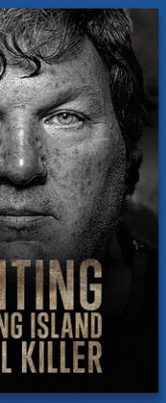
Seating Diagram

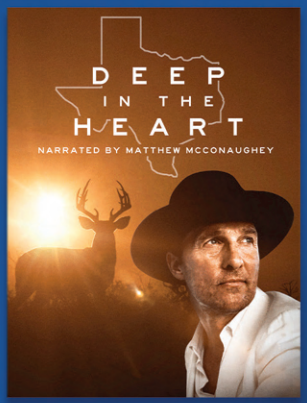


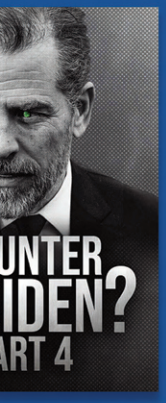


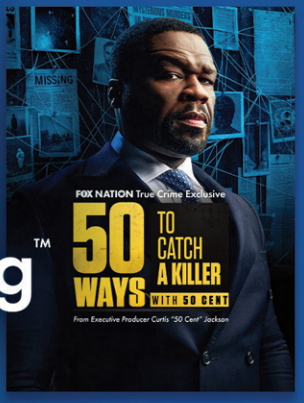


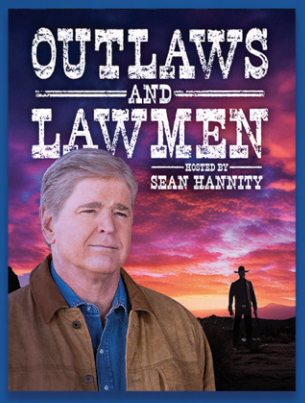


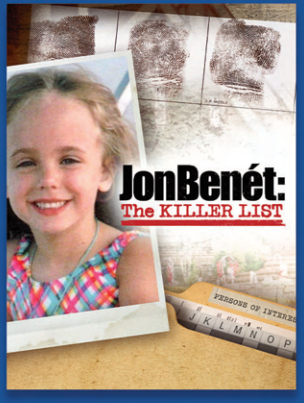


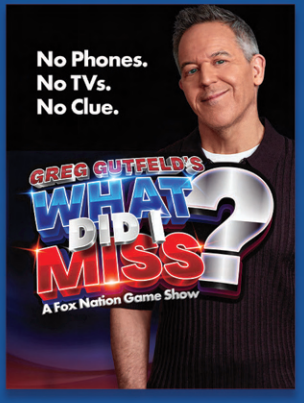


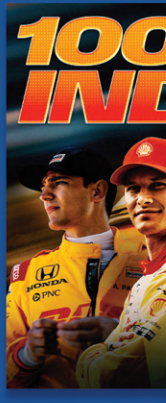












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JOSÉ RAMÍREZ

"There's a lot of discussions about the nature of this contract and why this contract happened," Ramírez said. "But for me, it's important to be here. This is where my family is and where I want to be. And most importantly, [it's] where I look forward to completing my career."

CLEVELAND -- José Ramírez joined the Guardians' organization in November 2009 as a 17-year-old international free-agent signing out of the Dominican Republic. Put another way, he's spent nearly as much of his life as a member of the franchise as he has outside of it.

"I can call myself a 50-50: 50 percent Dominican, and 50 percent Clevelander," Ramírez said during a news conference to discuss his contract extension on January 29, through interpreter Agustin Rivero.

Ramírez's Cleveland pride is fitting; the 33-year-old has reached a contract extension that will keep him in Northeast Ohio for the rest of his career.

The deal, which is worth $175 million, according to MLB.com's Mark Feinsand, will span through Ramírez's age-39 season, and supersedes the remaining three years and $69 million left on the seven-year extension he signed in 2022.

So why an extension now? Ramírez was motivated to secure his future in Cleveland and had his agent, Rafa Nieves, check in with the Guardians about one year ago to begin that process.

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JOSÉ RAMÍREZ

Ramírez's contract is unique; it's worth $25 million per season but includes $10 million deferred each campaign. The deferrals were one mechanism to help get it done, and the Guardians were motivated to do so upon learning of Ramírez's interest and given what he's meant to the franchise.

Ramírez will turn 40 during the 2032 campaign. By that point, he could solidify himself as the most decorated player in team history. But beyond becoming Cleveland's all-time leader in WAR, home runs, RBIs and any future accolade, there is a more pressing goal.

"The ultimate goal remains the same, which is to win the World Series," Ramírez said. "So for me, it's important to stay here, a commitment to continue to compete and win a World Series."

When Ramírez was a young player, Carlos Santana and Mike Napoli were among the veteran players whom he looked up to. As he enters his 14th season, Ramírez is now the leader and star whom players turn to, and that will certainly be the case in 2026 when Cleveland's roster is set to include a slew of up-and-comers.

Ramírez's presence will once again be critical for Cleveland this year as the team looks to win the AL Central title for the seventh time in the past 11 seasons.

"For me, it's important to help all the young guys because that's how we're going to compete," Ramírez said. "It's really important to make them the best teammates that we can. So I think that's my responsibility -- to help them in any way I can to be the best players that they can be."

When it's all said and done, Ramírez could stand alone as Cleveland's all-time franchise leader in myriad key categories. And if things go as the Guardians hope in the next seven years, he'll be the man who leads them to their first title since 1948.

"There may be a few Bob Feller fans who might argue differently," Dolan said. "But I think José will [go] down as the greatest player in the history of our franchise."

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The Ten-Year Anniversary of Cleveland's Magical Pennant-Winning 2016 Season.

By Anthony Castrovince

When you zoom in on the aftermath of the magic moment that, even in loss, will forever define the wild baseball ride that was Cleveland's 2016 season, what you see are the stunned and stirring faces.

On the archived broadcast feed from the seconds before the start of the ninth inning of Game 7 of the World Series at Progressive Field, there are the fans in the stands with their hands on their heads.

They could not believe what they had just seen.

There is the sweating face of Aroldis Chapman.

He could not believe what he had just allowed.

And there is the dazed expression of Rajai Davis, looking up to the heavens.

He could not believe what he had just done.

This is the heart of the story of the 2016 Cleveland Indians -- a story that will be told many times here in the 10th anniversary of their run to the American League pennant and one of the greatest World Series winner-take-all games ever played.

It was stunning. It was stirring. And it was hard to believe.

2016 SEASON

The powers that be at Sports Illustrated had to know what they were doing in March of 2015.

They had to know that they were messing with people's minds and a franchise's mojo.

OK, so they clouded the potential for curse and controversy by making four variations of the cover for their Major League Baseball season preview edition. There was a version with Robinson Cano and Felix Hernandez of the Mariners with the headline, "Time to Believe." There was one with Max Scherzer and Bryce Harper of the Nationals that read, "Let's Do Some Damage." And there was one with Salvador Perez and Greg Holland of the Royals that said, "Why. Not. Us."

But it was the one featuring reigning AL Cy Young winner Corey Kluber and outfielder Michael Brantley that set off a Northeast Ohio-wide case of the heebie-jeebies.

"Wait Till This Year," this cover said.

Yeah. They knew what they were doing.

Twenty-eight years earlier, SI had produced one of its most notorious cover curses when it previewed the 1987 MLB season by declaring an "Indian Uprising" and, next to an image of a smiling Cory Snyder and Joe Carter, made the bold proclamation: "Believe It! Cleveland Is the Best Team in the American League."

That team lost 101 games.

Believe it.

So to tempt the baseball gods and disrupt the good vibes of the productive first two seasons of the Terry Francona era in Cleveland felt a little dangerous.

To be clear, it's not as if everyone who appears on the SI cover is cursed. Heck, the Royals did indeed make good on the potential conveyed on their cover by avenging their Game 7 loss from the fall prior and going the distance for the first time in a generation with their 2015 World Series championship.

But as you know, these things hit a little different in Cleveland.

And so, for those 2015 Indians, the season played out in decidedly lukewarm fashion. That club wasn't as actively bad as the one in 1987, of course, but a supposed "sleeper" team was instead just kind of... sleepy.

On Opening Day in Houston, Kluber pitched a gem, but the lineup was shut down in a 2-0 loss. This would be a recurring theme. Kluber wound up finishing ninth in the Cy Young voting... while going 9-16. His AL-leading loss total was an indictment of a lineup that was 11th in the league in runs scored.

Cleveland finished a game above .500 but never seriously challenged in either the division or Wild Card race. It was, in many respects, a wasted year for a club with a Hall of Fame-worthy manager, a Rookie of the Year runner-up in shortstop Francisco Lindor, an emerging everyday piece in 22-year-old infielder José Ramírez and the makings of a robust rotation featuring Kluber, Carlos Carrasco, Danny Salazar, Trevor Bauer and Cody Anderson.

If there was hope for 2016, it rested in that rotation. The bargain signings for the lineup -- veteran first baseman Mike Napoli and speedy outfielder Rajai Davis – added experience but not luster. So no one -- no, not even SI -- was forecasting big things for the 2016 club.

Internally, some looked around and saw great potential.

"If everybody has the year they're supposed to have," two-time All-Star second baseman Jason Kipnis told reporters in Spring Training, "I like our lineup, especially to go with our staff."

But to most, that felt like a big if.

Then again, it was the general lack of belief that would make everything that happened from there so enthralling.

2016 SEASON

The season began not with high hopes but high winds.

And rain. And snow. Typical early-April-in-Cleveland stuff that postponed Opening Day against the Red Sox.

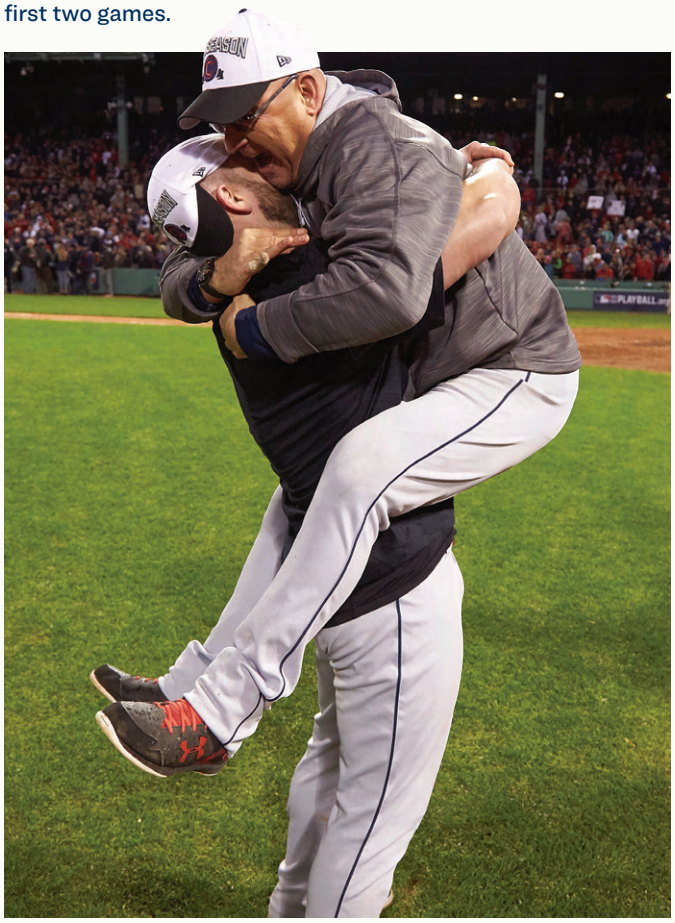
It marked the first time the home opener had been postponed since the infamous 2007 snow-outs that forced that year's team to play home games at indoor Miller Park in Milwaukee. The 2007 club turned those early weather woes into an uplifting season in which it surprisingly reached the ALCS.

The 2016 unit, it would turn out, would be no different.

April saw the Tribe go 10-11. May was a bit better, but nevertheless ended with the Indians in third place in the AL Central. Worse yet, Brantley continued to endure a shoulder injury suffered the season prior that would lead to him not taking an at-bat after May 9.

It was not until June that the fortunes changed not just for the baseball team but the broader Cleveland sports scene.

Across the way at Gateway Plaza, the Cavaliers played themselves into the NBA Finals for the second straight year. But for the second straight year, LeBron James and Co. were matched up against a dynastic Golden State Warriors team that had taken them down in six games in 2015 and grabbed a 3-1 lead in the 2016 best-of-seven, with blowout wins in each of the first two games.



To that point, no team had ever overcome a 3-1 deficit in the NBA Finals. That all changed when the Cavs won Games 5 and 6 at home to force a Game 7 on Father's Day, in Oakland's Oracle Arena.

Game 7 was tied at 89 in the closing minutes when James blocked Andre Iguodala's attempted layup. Kyrie Iring then hit the go-ahead 3-pointer that put the Cavs up for good.

It was stunning. It was stirring. It was not only the first championship for the Cavaliers but the first major sports championship for any Cleveland team since the Browns' NFL title in 1964.

And it reverberated 2,150 miles away, where an Indians team that had walked off the White Sox earlier in the day to improve to a season-high eight games over .500, with a half-game edge in the Central, was beginning to find its own groove.

"It's almost like the city exhaled," Francona said. "The Cavs winning gave us this permission to believe that good things could actually happen here."

Good things did.

Improbably, the Cavs' surge in the Finals coincided perfectly with the Tribe's surge in the standings. The Father's Day win over the White Sox was the third in what would be a then-franchise-record 14-game winning streak for Tito's troupe.

The team's identity began to crystallize. Lindor, a 22-year-old shortstop with a million-dollar smile, became the face of the franchise. Ramírez, a diminutive fireplug with a bright orange dyed mohawk, emerged as a super-utility star, accounting for the loss of Brantley's production. And Napoli's "Party at Napoli's" shirts became the unofficial uniform of the city.

This Cleveland club came together in other ways, too. Francona, upset about the senseless violence taking place in American inner cities, asked around the clubhouse if there was anything that could be done. A collection was started among the players and, in a matter of days, the Indians' organization had come up with a $1 million donation to what became called the Larry Doby Fund, serving youth-focused community organizations to help curb youth violence.

Francona called it "probably my proudest moment."

As the Trade Deadline approached, the Indians were in first place, but they needed a knockout punch. They had a deal in place for Brewers catcher Jonathan Lucroy, but he exercised his no-trade clause to shoot it down. But a swap simultaneously negotiated for Yankees reliever Andrew Miller bore fruit. The Indians nervously but happily exchanged a package of prospects highlighted by first-round Draft pick Clint Frazier for the lanky lefty who was on a large multi-year contract and therefore didn't mind coming to a club where he'd cede the closing duties to Cody Allen.

This was the move that would take Cleveland from deft to dangerous. Miller wasn't just a reliever; he was a weapon of opponent destruction. Francona used him in a revolutionary way, deploying him anywhere from the sixth through the ninth innings – whenever the outcome was most in doubt -- for the remainder of the regular season. Miller responded with a terrific stretch of dominance, striking out batters with his slider that defied the laws of physics.

With Miller aboard, Cleveland's pitching staff was officially championship-caliber. The AL Central outcome was increasingly certain, and fans could begin to forecast a fun October for a Tribe team with a legit opportunity to bring Cleveland its second parade in a matter of months.

But then came the injuries.

And with them, the return of the doubt.

****

"Write it down. On Sept. 17, the Indians were eliminated from serious postseason advancement before they even got there."

Paul Hoynes wrote those words for Cleveland.com that day. He had just watched the Indians step one win closer to an inevitable AL Central title -- the club's first in nine years. But in the aftermath of the extra-innings victory over the Tigers, there was ominous news.

"[Carrasco] is done for the year," Francona announced.

In the span of eight days, Salazar had grabbed his right forearm while pitching against the Twins, prematurely ending his All-Star season. Then, Carrasco, in the midst of his best season as a starter to date, had been struck by a line drive that broke a bone in his pitching hand.

Just like that, two-fifths of the rotation that was supposed to be the club's guiding light in the postseason bracket was gone.

So Hoynes, the longtime beat reporter whose decades of Cleveland coverage would eventually earn him a place in Cooperstown via the Baseball Writers' Association of America's 2026 Career Excellence Award, declared the Tribe dead.

And frankly, he wasn't alone... though he was the only person to agree to jump into a frigid Lake Erie in the winter if he was proven wrong.

As of Sept. 17, Lake Erie wasn't frozen over yet, but the Carrasco and Salazar news had been an unwelcome splash of cold water.

"We can't change the reality of the situation," Miller told reporters. "We just have to find a way to cope with it. We'll miss them. I think everyone will. But we have to find a way to cope."

October is supposed to be about hope, not cope. The Indians ventured onto the postseason stage as the AL's No. 2 seed, but the late-season injuries lent some fall fragility to the equation.

For the AL Division Series, Cleveland was pitted against the AL East-champion Red Sox, whose rotation was fronted by two Cy Young winners in David Price and Rick Porcello and whose best-in-the-league lineup featured sure-fire future Hall of Famers in David Ortiz on his retirement tour and Mookie Betts. It was, in other words, a tall order for a Cleveland club whose rotation was basically down to Kluber and a prayer. And even Kluber was slightly hobbled, dealing with a quad injury.

But right away, the Indians showed how they were going to aggressively account for the absences.

Trevor Bauer started Game 1 so that Kluber could have an extra day to rest his injury. And when Bauer surrendered a Sandy Leon home run in the fifth to cut Cleveland's lead down to 4-3, Francona summoned Miller.

Miller. In the fifth inning. It was the earliest edition of "Miller Time" yet.

"Nobody ever said you had to be conventional to win," Francona would say afterward.

Defying convention and denying the Boston bats, Miller iced that slim lead with four strikeouts in two scoreless innings. Cleveland added an insurance run in the bottom of the fifth, Bryan Shaw was touched for a run in the eighth and Allen nailed down a five-out save, as the Indians came away with a 5-4 win in Game 1.

That put the Tribe in position to take full advantage of a typically terrific Kluber start in Game 2, which Cleveland won, 6-0. Then it was off to Boston, where five gutsy innings from the unheralded Josh Tomlin, another early entrance from Miller and a huge homer atop the Green Monster from in-season acquisition Coco Crisp (who had been traded by the Tribe to Boston more than a decade earlier) spoiled Big Papi's final game at Fenway Park – a 4-3 win that completed the best-of-five sweep.

"We might not be the most talented team in this league," Francona said. "But that doesn't mean we can't win. And I think everybody in here believes that. We get to keep playing. That's the best thing I can say. We get to keep playing."

2016 SEASON

They kept playing in the American League Championship Series, against a stacked Blue Jays team that featured Jose Bautista, Josh Donaldson, Edwin Encarnacion and Troy Tulowitzki. Toronto's lineup threatened to expose the Indians.

While a hot or creative team can weasel its way through the best-of-five Division Series, but a best-of-seven is an entirely different animal. It requires depth and durability, and Cleveland was short on both.

That was all the more true when, prior to Game 1, Bauer was doing maintenance on one of the personal drones he enjoyed flying around the Cleveland area when he cut the pinkie finger on his throwing hand on a spinning propeller. The injury required 10 stitches and forced Cleveland to push Bauer's start back from Game 2 to Game 3.

A Tribe team all too accustomed to pitching mishaps laughed this one off.

"If he hasn't gotten a bunch of grief about it," Kluber said of Bauer, "he probably will."

So it was Kluber in Game 1 and Tomlin in Game 2, both at Progressive Field. Not only did the Tribe win both games, but the pitching was so tidy (Kluber to Miller to Allen in Game 1; Tomlin to Shaw to Miller to Allen in Game 2) that several of the team's pitchers had to throw side sessions at Progressive Field after Game 2 just to stay fresh.

When the ALCS shifted to Toronto, Bauer was on the mound for Game 3, with all eyes on his stitched-together pinkie. In keeping with the practice of the starting pitcher choosing the jersey of the day, Bauer went with Cleveland's dark navy top, so that he could try to conceal any blood oozing from his finger. He knew the umpires would not allow him to bleed all over the baseball.

Unfortunately, that's exactly what he did. The sight of Bauer's just two outs into his start was so gory that it was more suitable for a Halloween movie than an October ballgame. So Bauer was gone before the end of the first, and it was on the bullpen to stop the bleeding.

In succession, they did. Dan Otero, Jeff Manship, Zach McAllister two a manageable pair of runs in the game's first five innings, and then Shaw, Miller and Allen provided their now-standard scoreless support late. With Kipnis and Napoli going deep, Cleveland had enough offense to grab a 4-2 victory and take a commanding 3-0 lead in the series.

And it was all due to the pitching staff once again overcoming adversity.

"This," Allen said afterward, "is a true Tribe."

The Blue Jays were too good to go down without some kind of fight. When Aaron Sanchez shut down the Cleveland bats the next night, the two runs allowed by Kluber proved large in a 5-1 loss. And this setback was no small thing for a Tribe team absolutely scrambling for available arms. Kluber had pitched Game 4 on short rest, and Cleveland had no plans to have Tomlin do the same in Game 5.

Instead, the Indians entrusted this significant start with young Ryan Merritt, a 24-year-old kid the club had plucked in the 16th round of the Draft from a Texas community college. He had pitched all of 11 innings in the big leagues to that point, making him the least experienced starter in LCS history.

"With our experience in our lineup," Jays slugger Bautista said, "I'm pretty sure he's going to be shaking in his boots more than we are."

Over in the visitor's clubhouse at Rogers Centre, they laughed at the thought. They knew that the affable, aw-shucks Merritt was completely unmoved by the magnitude of the moment. They joked that he didn't even know what the World Series was and that he was too wrapped up in his "Clash of Clans" video game to be nervous about the ALCS.

"None of what's going on fazes him," veteran reliever Dan Otero said.

Boy, were they right.

In Game 5, Merritt did just enough to get the ball to that bullish bullpen, delivering 4 2/3 scoreless innings in which he allowed just two hits with no walks. His command of his less-than-sizzling stuff played perfectly against the aggressive, power-prone Blue Jays, who simply could not square him up.

"The emotions out there were kind of crazy at first -- a little nervous," Merritt said. "But it settled down, and I just trusted myself."

And of course, with an early 3-0 lead in hand thanks to an RBI double from Napoli and homers from Carlos Santana and Crisp, Francona trusted his key relievers. Shaw, Miller and Allen once again answered with scoreless outings, and Santana snared the Tulowitzki pop fly in foul territory before dropping to his knees as the Tribe's AL pennant celebration began.

In the visitor's clubhouse, amid the celebratory cigar smoke and the smell of champagne, Francona checked his phone and found the first call after the clinch had come from his dad – the original Tito, whose six seasons with the Indians in the younger Francona's formative years had inspired the two-time World Series-winning skipper to come to Cleveland.

"This has been good for him," Francona said of his dad. "He's getting older, but he's been glued to every game. His whole day is wrapped around what time the game starts."

People in baseball were stunned when Francona, after being recruited by then-president Mark Shapiro and general manager Chris Antonetti, took the Tribe job prior to the 2013 season. Many of Francona's friends in the industry figured he would want to work for a team with a bigger payroll and lusher resources.

But Francona had always said that, to him, the Cleveland franchise felt like family. And the family had a lot to celebrate that night.

"Me and Chris talked about it a lot of times, even in tough times," Francona said that night. "We'd say, 'If we can do it, it's going to be that much more meaningful.' And you know what? It is."

****

The 2016 World Series preceded the implementation of baseball's pitch clock. And yet, the clock was all anybody could talk about.

It was ticking for the Tribe, which had not won the World Series since 1948.

And it was ticking for the Chicago Cubs, whose last taste of triumph had come in 1908.

The combined championship drought of 176 years was unlike anything the Fall Classic had ever produced. And while both clubs did what they could to dismiss the distraction of all the drought talk ("I don't feel responsible for the fact that my dad couldn't win," Francona would say), there is no doubt that everybody in uniform felt like they were on the clock.

Thanks to Kluber earning the win in the AL's All-Star Game victory earlier that summer, Cleveland had home-field advantage, even though the 103-win Cubs, who had reached the NLCS a year earlier and had assembled a star-laden squad, were widely considered the better team and the favorite.

In the Series for the first time since the seven-game heartbreaker against the Marlins in 1997, the Tribe struck first in Game 1 on Ramírez's RBI single and never looked back. Kluber outpitched established October hero Jon Lester, and Miller and Allen finished the job in a remarkably efficient 6-0 win.

The Cubs roared back with a 5-1 win on a bone-chilling cold night at Progressive Field in Game 2. But when the Series shifted to the North Side of Chicago, for the first World Series games at iconic Wrigley Field since 1945, Cleveland just kept coming up with clutch moments.

Game 3 belonged to Tomlin, the undersized right-hander who never backed down despite not possessing dazzling raw stuff. His father, Jerry, had recently suffered a rare spinal malformation that left him paralyzed from the chest down. And with Jerry in attendance in the wheelchair section at Wrigley, Tomlin had one of the best games of his life, delivering 4 2/3 scoreless innings before again handing it off to that Allen-Miller-Shaw three-headed monster. Crisp's seventh-inning single knocked in the lone run of the game.

Then, in Game 4, the Indians' bats, which for all the club's success had been fairly quiet all postseason, stunned the Wrigley watchers. The game was tied at 1 when Kluber, forced to bat in the NL park in that era prior to the universal DH, came up in the second with the bases loaded and hit a 30-foot dribbler to the left-hand side. Third baseman Kris Bryant charged on the ball and threw wildly to first. Lonnie Chisenhall scored, and Kluber, who was using the injured Brantley's bat, had just given himself a 2-1 lead to work with.

Kluber was magnificent again that night, allowing just a run in six innings. And the Tribe bats followed his lead and exploded against John Lackey and the Cubs' bullpen in a 7-2 win.

There the Indians were, holding a 3-1 lead. The same lead the Warriors had on the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals. The difference was that the Tribe, unlike the Warriors, was the decided underdog in this Series. And any concern that the loaded NL champs would not go down quietly was validated the very next night.

In Game 5, the Cubs turned the tables on the Tribe by unleashing their own high-leverage lefty trade acquisition, Aroldis Chapman, earlier than usual. Chicago was ahead, 3-2, in the seventh, and the Indians had a runner in scoring position with one out when Chapman came on the scene and wound up turning in an eight-out save to nail down that slim lead and send the Series back to Cleveland.

Game 6 was all Cubbies. They jumped all over Tomlin and scored seven runs in the game's first three innings to ensure what would be – as a function of the dueling droughts – the most anticipated Game 7 in baseball history.

"It's just correct and apt that we'd go seven games," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Added Francona: "It's an honor to even be a part of it, and we're going to give it everything we have. I can't imagine a better group of guys to go through something like this with."

****

Game 7 was played on an unseasonably warm Cleveland night, with a first-pitch temperature of 69 degrees. With the chance to witness the end the "Curse of the Billygoat," Cubs fans made the trip from Chicago in droves. It was an emotionally charged atmosphere at Progressive Field.

As in Game 6, the Cubs took control early, this time taking it to Kluber, who finally showed signs of being gassed after carrying the starting staff so long. And when Miller also finally cracked, serving up a rare home run in the sixth inning to the Cubs' backup catcher, David Ross, the Tribe's 6-3 deficit felt gargantuan.

That was the score going into the bottom of the eighth. In the visitor's clubhouse, they were starting to prepare the Cubs' champagne celebration. And when Lester, in a rare relief turn, quickly got the first two outs of the inning, there was no reason to suspect the party would be postponed.

But then Ramírez, the young pup who would grow to become one of the greatest players in franchise history, singled to breathe some life into the Tribe's lineup. Maddon summoned Chapman, and Brandon Guyer ripped a double to center to score Ramírez and make it 6-4.

Watching from the on-deck circle, Rajai Davis felt an odd sense of calm come over him.

"I was feeling very confident," he would later say. "Confident. Beyond confident. It was just a confidence that's hard to explain."

Davis' game was speed, not power. He hit a grand total of 62 regular-season home runs. No, not in a single season, a la Aaron Judge in 2022. An entire career. And though his career numbers were better against lefties than righties, a high-velocity, accomplished closer like Chapman in his prime was not a great matchup for him. Or, frankly, anybody.

"I think the entire stadium had pretty much concluded the fact that the game was over," Davis said.

It was not.

Davis said a short prayer and made his way to the box. What followed was a long plate appearance with four foul balls, and each one added to Davis' confidence that he could hit this guy.

"I really felt like I was on his fastball," he would say.

Finally, the seventh pitch. A 98-mph fastball. Davis connected in time, and the ball lifted toward the 19-foot wall in left field. Davis had hit all of two home runs at Progressive Field that season, and he wasn't sure he had gotten all of this one.

Until he looked over and saw first-base coach Sandy Alomar Jr. jumping.

"And then I just heard the roar of the crowd," Davis said. "And I knew."

It was mayhem at Progressive Field. Davis touched his fist to his heart and then pointed to the sky as he rounded the bases. The broadcast quickly cut to LeBron James, flexing in a "Cleveland or Nowhere" T-shirt. The Tribe players poured out of the dugout.

And the game was tied.

What would Cleveland fans give to return to that moment? To pause it? To let it breathe?

It's odd that one of the happiest memories in many Cleveland baseball fans' lives just so happened to come in a game the Tribe went on to lose. There was the hanging slider from Chapman in the bottom of the ninth that Santana just missed. The second hanging slider that Kipnis swung just a smidge too early on and launched foul.

"When [Kipnis] swung the bat, my heart just stopped," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. "I thought we had just been walked off."

There was the 17-minute rain delay before the 10th, and then the Cubs regaining the lead by scoring a pair off Bryan Shaw.

There was the other, oft-forgotten heroic hit from Davis, who ripped a two-out RBI single that cut the Cubs' lead down to one, 8-7, in the bottom of the 10th. And then Michael Martinez regrettably being the only bat left to face Mike Montgomery and hitting the feeble groundball that the Cubs turned into a celebration 108 years in the making.

That all hurt. And still hurts.

The baseball season is the longest and most emotionally grueling of the team sports. To push it to its mathematical limit and come out on the wrong end – in extra innings, no less – is the ultimate baseball pain, and it's one Cleveland fans, incredibly, had to endure twice in the span of 20 seasons.

But there's something about that Rajai Davis swing that still resonates, even in loss.

For one, it could not have happened to a nicer guy. For another, it was brilliantly, beautifully, statistically improbable... not unlike that Cleveland team's run to the World Series.

All these years later, even knowing the eventual outcome, only the hardest of hearts could watch Rajai round the bases and squash a smile.

The 2016 Cleveland Indians were not the 1995 Cleveland Indians – the team often regarded in baseball circles as one of the absolute best to fall short of a championship. Cleveland has, frankly, had much better teams that didn't even sniff the Series, including the 2017 unit that won a record 22 straight games.

So there is something soulful about that '16 squad. Something representative of this Rust Belt city itself. The better, richer team won a World Series that went down as one of the best ever played. And while there was heartbreak – agonizing, tortuous, burning heartbreak – in losing it, there was no shame.

"There's nothing for us to hang our heads about," Kipnis said afterward. "We fought our asses off the whole time and overcame every single thing you could throw at us. We had injuries and you name it, and not once did we use it as an excuse. All we did was put our noses down and keep fighting. We took a very good ballclub to extra innings in Game 7 of the World Series, so I'm not going to hang my head too long."

When the run was over, Paul Hoynes honored his end of the bet and jumped in a frigid lake. And 2016 ushered in an era of contention in Cleveland in which the ballclub has reached the postseason seven times in 10 seasons and won the AL Central six times.

What that 2016 World Series produced was pain, yes, but also pride. What that injury riddled, unheralded team accomplished together was stunning and stirring. Hard to believe and impossible to forget.

-Anthony Castrovince is a senior writer for MLB.com.

Back to back! Vogt wins AL Manager of the Year for 2nd season in a row

Tim Stebbins

Manager Stephen Vogt led the Guardians to a historic AL Central title in 2025. It's only fitting he put a bow on the season by etching his name into the record books once more.

Vogt was named the winner of the 2025 AL Manager of the Year Award, as voted upon by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. By winning the honor for the second straight season, he has joined some tremendous company.

Vogt is only the fourth manager to win this award in consecutive seasons, joining Bobby Cox (2004-05), Kevin Cash ('20-21) and Pat Murphy -- who also won it for the second straight season on Tuesday.

Even more rare, Vogt is the first skipper to earn the honor in each of his first two seasons as a big-league manager. He and Murphy are the first to win it in each of their first two seasons with a team.

Vogt received 20 first-place votes to top Toronto's John Schneider (10) and Seattle's Dan Wilson (two). Cleveland (six) snapped a tie with the White Sox for the most Manager of the Year Awards overall.

"Obviously, I feel super honored," Vogt said during a Zoom session. "The job that everyone did -- and I know I played a part in it -- but just to overcome everything that we did to win the division, get to the playoffs, I couldn't be more proud of our players."

"... Our staff was overworked, but it's a really cool honor for the entire organization, and just a nod to the work that our team did."

The Guardians set an MLB record for largest deficit overcome to win a division (since 1969) or league (pre-'69). They trailed Detroit by 15 1/2 games the morning of July 8. They were 11 games back the morning of Sept. 5 -- the new record for largest deficit erased in September to win a division or league.

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STEPHEN VOGT

The Guardians finished the regular season 19-4 to secure the Central. That was part of their 20-7 month of September and a 42-25 second half, which were the best records in MLB over those respective spans.

Among other adversity, Cleveland had a 10-game losing streak (June 26-July 6) and a 1-9 stretch (Aug. 15-25). It saw All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase and starter Luis Ortiz go on non-disciplinary paid leave in July amid ongoing MLB investigations.

That same month, the Guardians shipped ace Shane Bieber to Toronto before the Trade Deadline, while he was on the comeback trail from Tommy John surgery. For the season, Cleveland recorded a single-season franchise worst .226 batting average.

The Guardians had every opportunity to waver. Through the ups and downs, Vogt continually preached a one-day-at-a-time mentality, even while acknowledging it was a cliché.

"This one is so gratifying, because I know how hard we worked," Vogt said of his two Manager of the Year Awards. "I know how hard it was to show up every day at times positive, and to keep pushing and to keep that smile on your face. It's a choice every single day that you make when you show up to work, if you want to be in a good mood or bad mood.

"... Our entire group showed up in a good mood, believing we were going to win, even through the midst of some rough stretches. We knew that it was going to turn at some point, and we had to make it turn."

A pivot to a six-man rotation helped pave the way. The Guardians ranked second in the Majors with a 2.16 ERA from Sept. 3 onward.

Vogt is always the first person to credit those around him. He pointed to his coaching staff, clubhouse leaders such as José Ramírez, Austin Hedges, David Fry, Steven Kwan and Bo Naylor, and a front office led by team president Chris Antonetti, general manager Mike Chernoff and assistant GM Matt Forman.

But the Guardians' turnaround this season doesn't happen without their manager. And for a guy who had not managed at any level before 2024, Vogt has quickly proven he is among the best in baseball.

"I don't pretend to have answers," Vogt said. "I'm very curious. I want to learn. I think I settled into [the job] pretty quickly. I still make mistakes every single night. I still make mistakes every single day, but I own up to those and I apologize for them.

"I'm never going to be satisfied. I'm never going to stop learning. I can always grow and get better. But I felt like I settled into it fairly quickly because of the people around me helping me."

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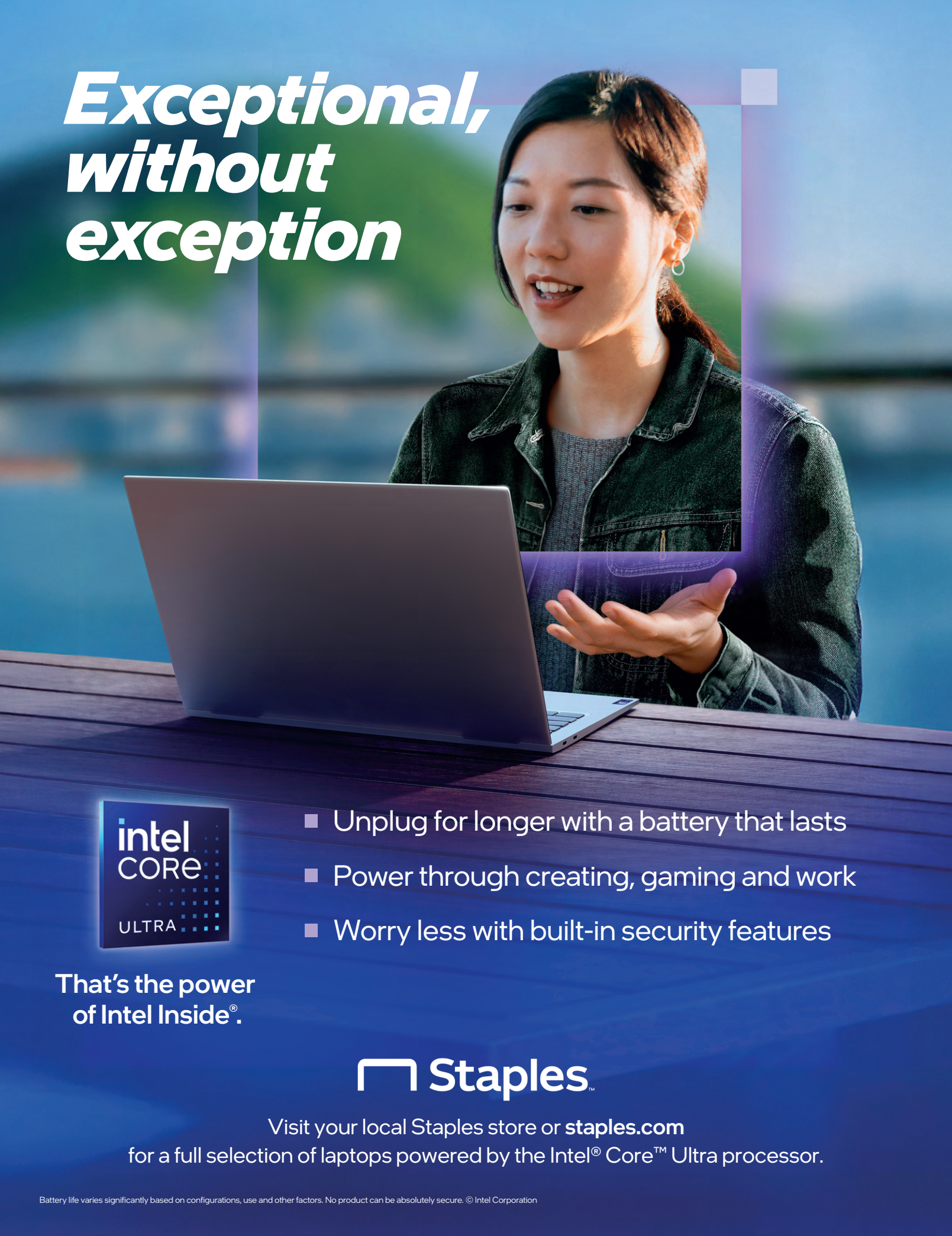
Stephen VOGT

MANAGER

Entering his third season as the Manager of the Cleveland Guardians. Was named the 45th Manager in club history on November 6, 2023. In 2025, became 4th Manager to record back-to-back Manager of the Year Awards, the first-ever in their first two seasons as the Guardians clinched the division for the second straight year... 2025 Guardians set MLB records for overall (15.5 G, 7/8) and Sept. (11.0 G, 9/4) deficits overcome to win a division or league title, surpassing the 1914 Boston Braves (15.0GB) and the 1964 St. Louis Cardinals (8.5 games), respectively.

12

#GUARDSBALL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Logan ALLEN

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Deltona, Florida

BORN
9/5/1998

BATS
Right

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
200

26

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Gabriel ARIAS

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Aragua, Venezuela

BORN
2/27/2000

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-1

WEIGHT
220

13

#GUARDSBALL

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Shawn ARMSTRONG

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
New Bern, North Carolina

BORN
9/11/1990

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-2

WEIGHT
225

43

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Tanner BIBEE

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Mission Viejo, California

BORN
3/5/1999

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-2

WEIGHT
215

28

#GUARDSBALL

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

The Guardians Significant Others Association has worked hard to become an influential group in the Cleveland Community. The significant others are committed to assisting local non-profit organizations and supporting the missions of many groups dedicated to helping women and children as well as finding cures for life-threatening diseases.

With the great support from the Guardians dedicated fans, the significant others continue to work hard off the field and make a difference in the lives of Clevelanders.

The Significant Others Association works in collaboration with Cleveland Guardians Charities to support and coordinate outreach initiatives throughout the greater Cleveland community. Through volunteerism and fundraising, the group continues to make a difference with past involvement including Providence House, Ohio Guidestone and the Cleveland Food Bank.

To stay updated with the Guardians Significant Others involvement in the community and for more information on programs and events, please visit CLEGUARDIANS.COM

Joey CANTILLO

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Honolulu, Hawaii

BORN
12/18/1999

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-4

WEIGHT
225

54

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RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Oviedo, Florida

BORN
6/24/1999

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-4

WEIGHT
240

44

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Chase DELAUTER

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Frederick, Maryland

BORN
10/8/2001

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-4

WEIGHT
235

24

#GUARDSBALL

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David FRY

UTL/CATCHER

HOMETOWN
Irving, Texas

BORN
11/20/1995

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-2

WEIGHT
215

6

#GUARDSBALL

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Hunter GADDIS

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Canton, Georgia

BORN
4/9/1998

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-6

WEIGHT
250

33

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Austin HEDGES

CATCHER

HOMETOWN
San Juan Capistrano, California

BORN
8/18/1992

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-1

WEIGHT
215

27

#GUARDSBALL

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Tim HERRIN

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Munster, Indiana

BORN
10/8/1996

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-5

WEIGHT
225

29

#GUARDSBALL

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Rhys HOSKINS

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Sacramento, California

BORN
3/17/1993

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-3

WEIGHT
240

8

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Steven KWAN

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Los Gatos, California

BORN
9/5/1997

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
5-9

WEIGHT
170

38

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Kyle MANZARDO

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

BORN
7/18/2000

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
215

9

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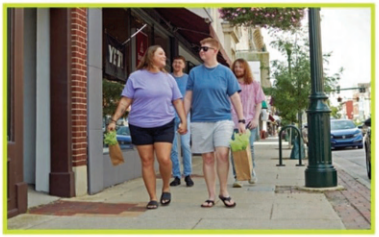

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Parker MESSICK

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Plant City, Florida

BORN
10/26/2000

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
225

77

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Bo NAYLOR

CATCHER

HOMETOWN
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

BORN
2/21/2000

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
205

23

#GUARDSBALL

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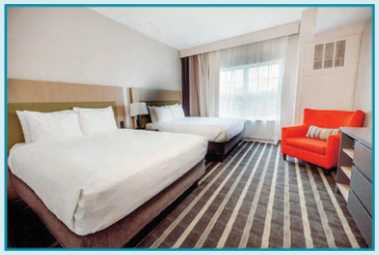

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José RAMÍREZ

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Baní, Dominican Republic

BORN
9/17/1992

BATS
Switch

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
5-9

WEIGHT
200

11

#GUARDSBALL

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Brayan ROCCHIO

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Caracas, Venezuela

BORN
1/13/2001

BATS
Switch

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
5-10

WEIGHT
185

4

#GUARDSBALL

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(216) 676-8888 • cms_cleveland

Erik SABROWSKI

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

BORN
10/31/1997

BATS
Right

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-3

WEIGHT
230

62

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Daniel SCHNEEMANN

UTILITY

HOMETOWN
San Diego, California

BORN
1/23/1997

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
205

10

#GUARDSBALL

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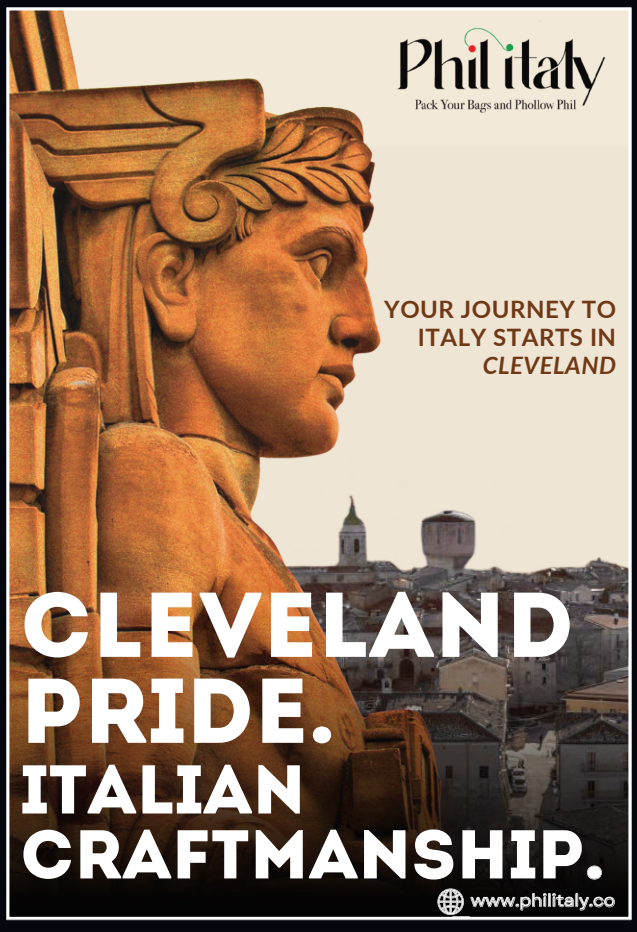

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Cade SMITH

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Abbotsford East, BC, Canada

BORN
5/9/1999

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-5

WEIGHT
250

36

#GUARDSBALL

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Real estate isn't just my career — it's my story. I started as an investor in 2017, learning how to spot hidden potential and turn neglected properties into thriving, income-producing homes. Over the years, I've worked hands-on with construction teams (2021–2023), managed rental portfolios (2021–2025), and guided countless clients and investors through the complex world of property ownership and management.

Today, as a REALTOR® with Keller Williams Greater Metropolitan, I specialize in distressed and high-potential properties across Cuyahoga, Stark, Summit, and 5 more Counties. My goal is to help investors and homeowners make smart, strategic decisions — whether that means finding a flip opportunity, a long-term rental, or a Section 8 investment with stable returns.

Fluent in English, Russian, and Ukrainian, I take pride in serving diverse communities, including first-time buyers and international investors looking to grow in Northeast Ohio.

If you're looking for a partner who understands both the business and the heart behind real estate — I'm here to help you turn opportunity into ownership.

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RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Fayetteville, North Carolina

BORN
7/26/1999

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-6

WEIGHT
250

32

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Travis BAZZANA

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Hornsby, Australia

BORN
8/28/2002

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
200

72

Juan BRITO

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

BORN
9/24/2001

BATS
Switch

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
5-11

WEIGHT
200

74

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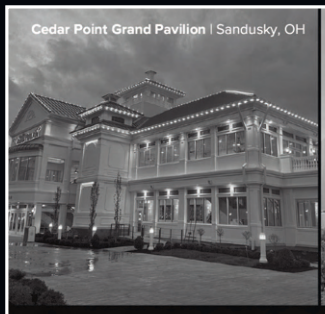
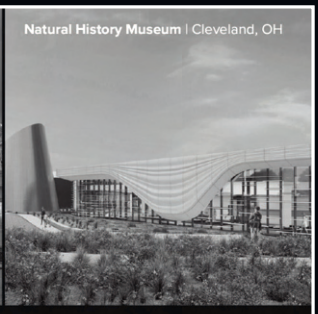


Cedar Point Grand Pavilion | Sandusky, OH



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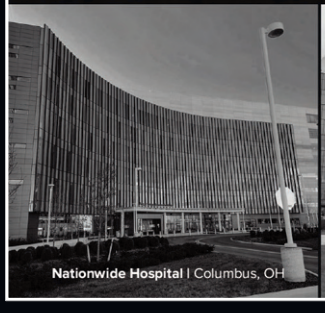

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MetroHealth Glick Center | Cleveland, OH

Connor BROGDON

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Clovis, California

BORN
1/29/1995

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-6

WEIGHT
205

75

Daniel ESPINO

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Panama City, Panama

BORN
1/5/2001

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-2

WEIGHT
220

66

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Matt FESTA

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Brooklyn, New York

THROWS
Right

BORN
3/11/1993

HEIGHT
6-1

BATS
Right

WEIGHT
200

52

Codi HEUER

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Missoula, Montana

THROWS
Right

BORN
7/3/1996

HEIGHT
6-5

BATS
Right

WEIGHT
200

50

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Colin HOLDERMAN

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Bourbonnais, Illinois

BORN
10/8/1995

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-6

WEIGHT
230

35

Nolan JONES

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

BORN
5/7/1998

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-5

WEIGHT
220

22

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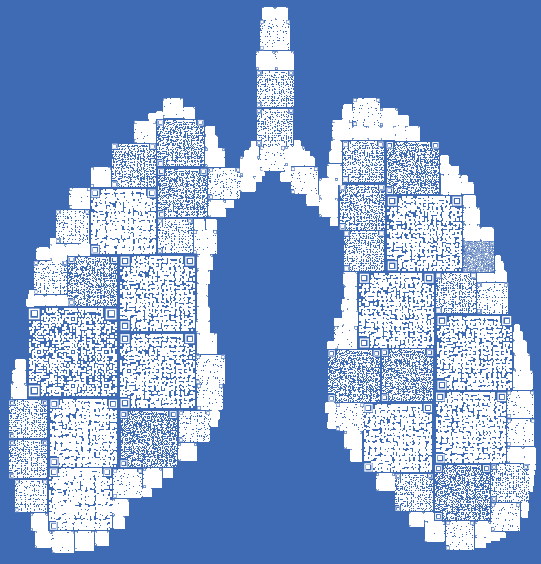

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ad COUNCIL

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CJ KAYFUS

INFIELD/OUTFIELD

HOMETOWN
Boca Raton, Florida

BORN
10/28/2001

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
195

2

Carter KIEBOOM

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Marietta, Georgia

BORN
9/3/1997

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-2

WEIGHT
210

31

“Museums are reservoirs of the human spirit.

John Cotton Dana

AFSCME Ohio Council 8 is proud to represent the passionate workers at

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Angel MARTINEZ

UTILITY

HOMETOWN
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

BORN
1/27/2002

BATS
Switch

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
201

1

Johnathan RODRIGUEZ

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Bayamón, Puerto Rico

BORN
11/4/1999

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-3

WEIGHT
220

30

If you love them enough to sit through their favorite movies,

then surely you'll check to make sure they're in the right car seat.

NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat

NHTSA

ad COUNCIL

Trevor STEPHAN

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Austin, Texas

BORN
11/25/1995

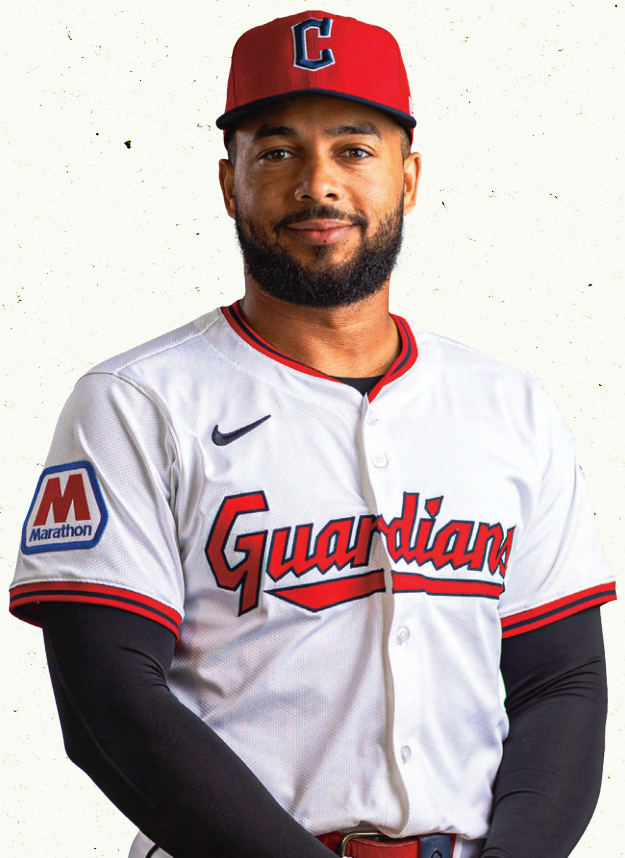
BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-5

WEIGHT
225

37



George VALERA

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Queens, New York

BORN
11/13/2000

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
195

7

Andrew WALTERS

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Palm Bay, Florida

BORN
12/8/2000

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-4

WEIGHT
222

91

Franco ALEMAN

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Yaguajay, Cuba

BORN
6/26/2000

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-6

WEIGHT
235

92

Kolby ALLARD

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Anaheim, California

BORN
8/13/1997

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
195

49

Stuart FAIRCHILD

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Seattle, Washington

BORN
3/17/1996

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
5-11

WEIGHT
205

17

Angel GENAO

INFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Castillo, Dominican Republic

BORN
5/19/2004

BATS
Switch

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-1

WEIGHT
195

73

When I grow up,
I want to be a
Teacher!
Last year, Sam was too sick to dream.
He has Primary Immunodeficiency or PI.
Thanks to the Jeffrey Modell Foundation,
he has been properly diagnosed and treated.
Now he's head of the class.
jm
Jeffrey Modell
Foundation
helping children reach for their dreams
info4pi.org
Because of the
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
I have a Chance!♡

Petey HALPIN

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
San Mateo, California

BORN
5/26/2002

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
200

0

Cooper INGLE

CATCHER

HOMETOWN
Asheville, North Carolina

BORN
2/23/2002

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
5-10

WEIGHT
195

70

Ben LIVELY

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Pensacola, Florida

BORN
3/5/1992

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-4

WEIGHT
235

39

Doug NIKHAZY

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Burlington, North Carolina

BORN
8/11/99

BATS
Left

THROWS
Left

HEIGHT
6-0

WEIGHT
210

65

Small acts of kindness can have a big impact in making people feel welcome. When we reach out and connect with others, we can build a stronger community where everyone – regardless of their background – feels like they belong.

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ad COUNCIL

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Dom NUÑEZ

CATCHER

HOMETOWN
Elk Grove, California

BORN
1/17/1995

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-1

WEIGHT
212

46

Peyton PALLETTE

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Benton, Arkansas

BORN
5/9/2001

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-1

WEIGHT
190

63

Austin PETERSON

RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

HOMETOWN
Valparaiso, Indiana

BORN
9/19/1999

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-7

WEIGHT
240

80

Alfonsin ROSARIO

OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
Sabana Grande de Palenqu, Dominican Republic

BORN
6/21/2004

BATS
Right

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-2

WEIGHT
230

89

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Adopt a teen.
You can't imagine the reward.
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ad COUNCIL
& ACF
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Ralphy VELAZQUEZ

FIRST-BASEMAN/OUTFIELDER

HOMETOWN
San Pedro, California

BORN
5/28/2005

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
6-3

WEIGHT
240

87

Kahlil WATSON

UTILITY/OUTFIELD

HOMETOWN
Chase City, Virginia

BORN
4/16/2003

BATS
Left

THROWS
Right

HEIGHT
5-9

WEIGHT
180

71

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Carl WILLIS

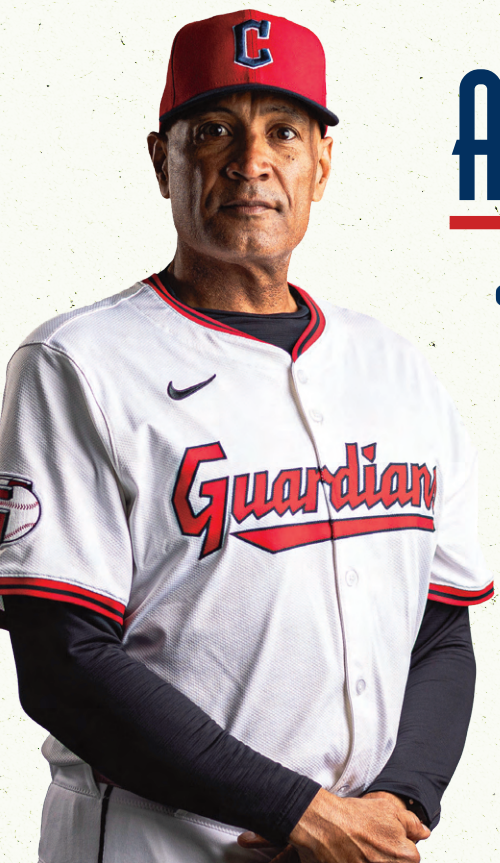
PITCHING COACH

In his ninth season on the Cleveland staff after Oct. 26, 2017 hiring. Overall this is his 16th season as Guardians Pitching Coach and 23rd at the Major League level.

Grant FINK

HITTING COACH

Named ML Hitting Coach on Nov. 13, 2024, entering second season in the role.



Sandy ALOMAR

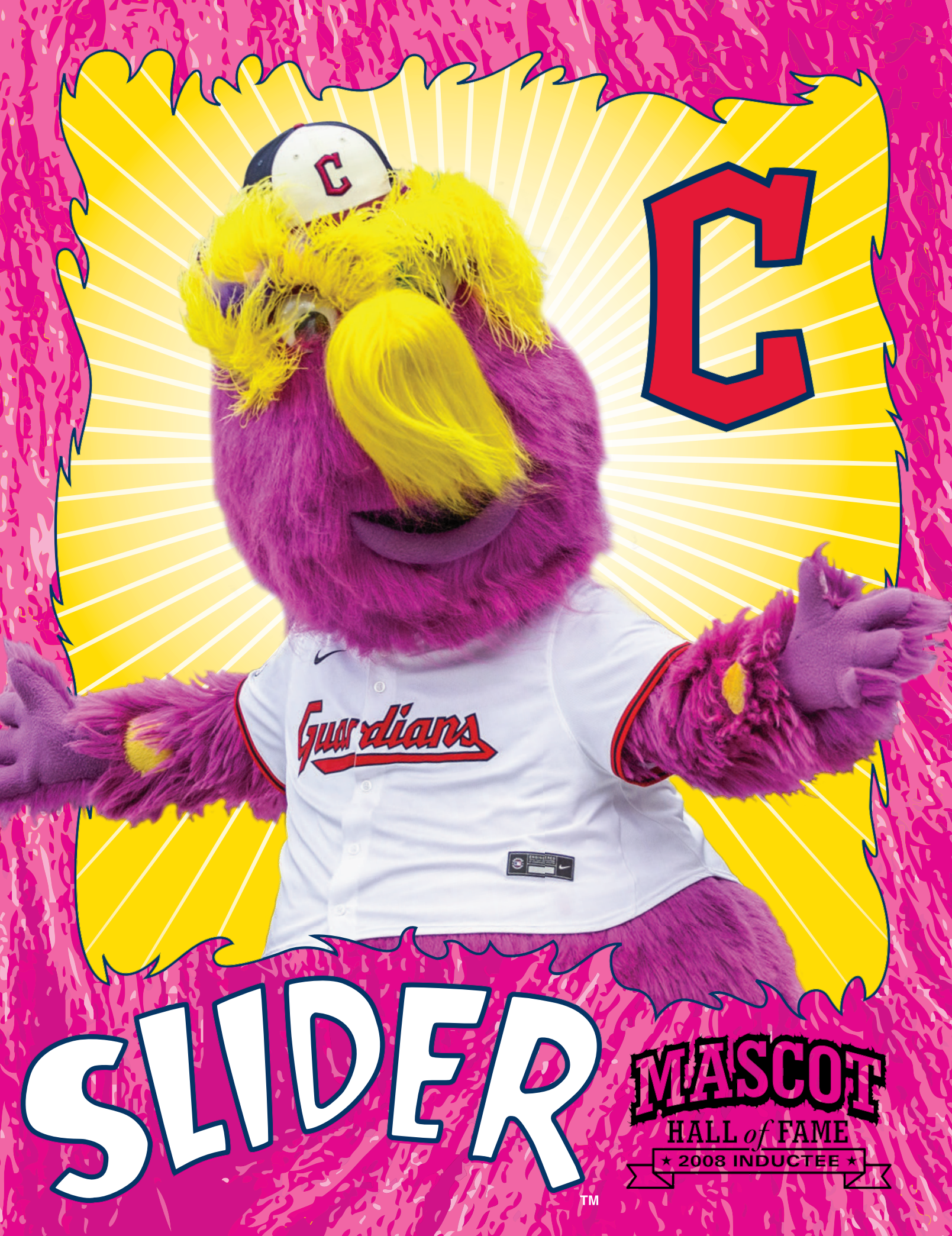
FIRST BASE/ CATCHING COACH

Entering his 17th season on the Guardians coaching staff. Named First Base Coach on November 17, 2009, was 1B coach in 2010-11, Bench Coach in 2012-13 before moving back to first base in 2014.

Tony ARNERICH

BENCH COACH

Joins the Guardians organization following nine seasons with the Seattle Mariners, spending the last four seasons on the Major League coaching staff as the Hitting Coach (2022-23) followed by a two-year stint as Bullpen Coach and Catching Instructor (2024-25), replacing Stephen Vogt in that capacity.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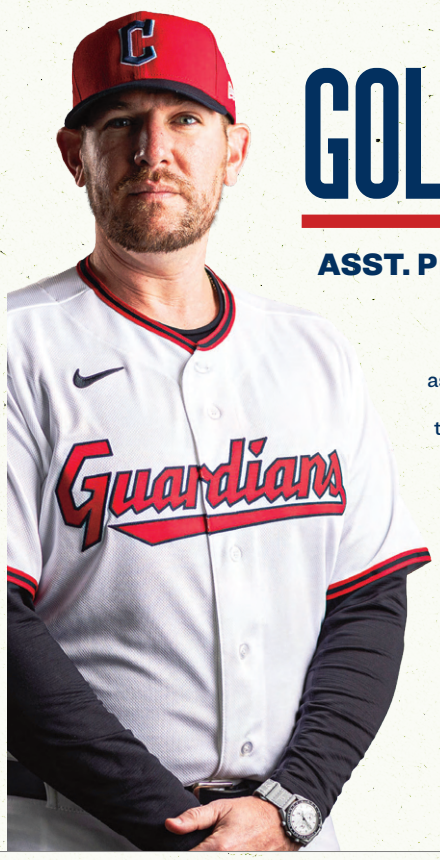
ASST. HITTING COACH

Entering first full season on the Guardians Major League staff after joining the team in July 2025 as Asst. Hitting Coach.



Brad GOLDBERG

ASST. PITCHING COACH

Entering his third season on the Major League Staff, spent the 2024 campaign as the club's Bullpen Coach, guiding MLB's top bullpen that recorded an MLB-best 2.57 ERA, the lowest by a Cleveland club since 1954.

Caleb LONGSHORE

BULLPEN COACH

Named Bullpen Coach on Dec. 13, 2024, enters second season on Major League staff.

JT MAGUIRE

OUTFIELD & BASERUNNING COACH

Enters his fourth season on the Guardians coaching staff, instructing the club's outfielders and baserunning.

Andy MCKAY

MAJOR LEAGUE FIELD COORDINATOR

Begins first season in the Guardians organization after being named Major League Field Coordinator on Nov. 12.

Rouglas ODOR

INFIELD/THIRD BASE COACH

Enters his third season on the Guardians coaching staff after his November 27, 2023 hiring

Dan PUENTE

ASSISTANT HITTING COACH

Enters his third season on the Guardians coaching staff after his January 15, 2024 hiring...

Joe TORRES

ASSISTANT PITCHING COACH

Torres enters his fifth season on the Major League coaching staff and his 10th overall season in the Guardians organization, serving as the club's Major League Assistant Pitching Coach

TRAINING STAFF

Lonnie Soloff
Sr. Vice President, Medical Services

Lonnie Soloff is in his 23rd season with the Cleveland Guardians and his 13th leading Medical Services. He was elevated to Senior Vice President, Medical Services prior to the 2022 campaign.

Jeff Desjardins
Head Athletic Trainer

Jeff Desjardins, 52, is entering his 17th season on the Major League Athletic Training staff and his third as Head Athletic Trainer. This season marks his 26th season in the Guardians organization.

Chad Wolfe
Assistant Athletic Trainer

Chad Wolfe enters his eighth season as the club's Assistant Athletic Trainer and is entering his 23rd overall season as an Athletic Trainer in the Organization.

Bobby Ruiz
Assistant Athletic Trainer

Bobby Ruiz begins his third season as the Assistant Athletic Trainer for the Cleveland Guardians, marking his 16th overall year with the organization.

Daniel Himmerick
Major League Rehabilitation

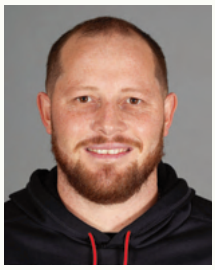
Daniel enters his seventh year with the Cleveland Guardians, his first as Major League Rehabilitation Coordinator.

Adam Kimberly
Physical Therapy Consultant

Adam Kimberly enters his fifth season with the Cleveland Guardians, serving in 2026 as a Physical Therapy Consultant.

Beth Mignano
Soft Tissue/Manual Therapist

Beth Mignano begins her 11th season as the club's Soft Tissue/Manual Therapist.



Hasani Torres
Major League Head Strength & Conditioning Coach

Hasani Torres begins his second season as Major League Strength and Conditioning Coach, his 14th overall season in the Guardians organization.

Joe Kessler
Senior Coordinator, Strength and Conditioning, Integration and Development

Joe Kessler is entering his 17th season with the organization, his second in a coordinator role following 15 seasons as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach from 2010-2024.

Nelson Pérez
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach

Nelson Pérez is in his 19th year with the Guardians, his third as Assistant Major League Strength Coach in his second stint in the position.

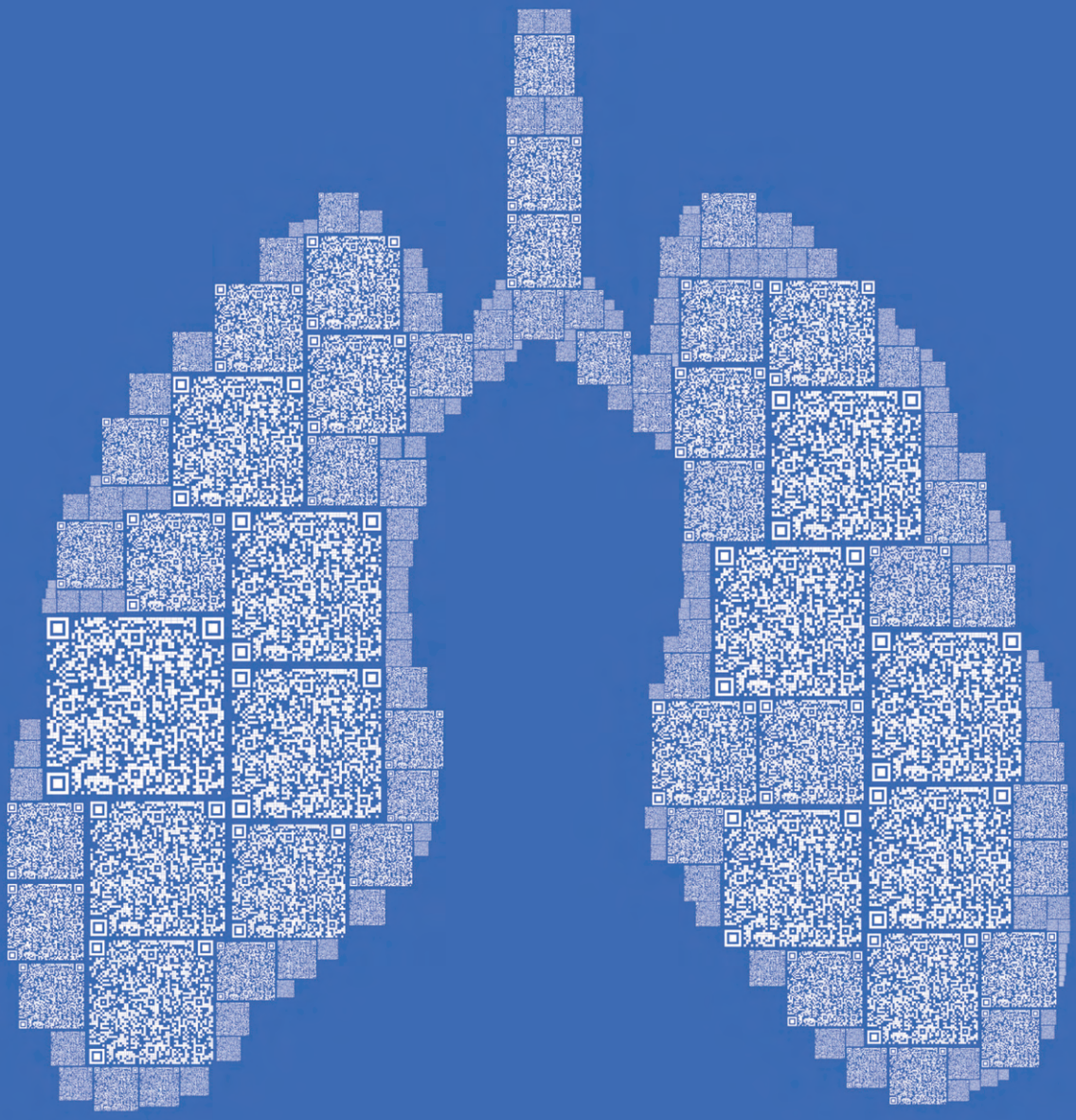
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS CHARITIES (CGC) CELEBRATES ITS 37TH YEAR SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN 2026.

GUARDIANS 50/50 RAFFLE

Purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket during Guardians home games for your chance to win half the pot at select kiosks. The other half is donated to CGC so they can continue to provide baseball and softball opportunities to underprivileged youth.

For more information or to pledge your support, visit CLEGuardians.com/community **DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

To stay up to date with Cleveland Guardians Community Impact efforts, follow @CLEInspires on Facebook, Instagram, and X.



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